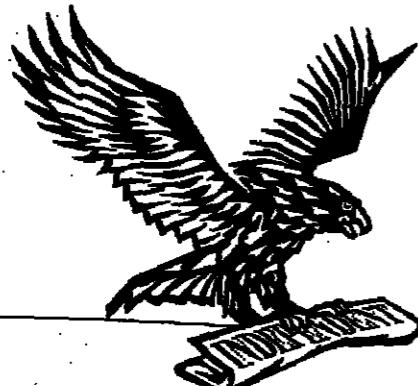


Brilliant, British and broke

Stars of Fashion Week, Section Two

John Walsh: Guns and poses

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THE INDEPENDENT

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THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 1996

WEATHER Sunny start, rain later

40P (R 45P)

Tories to include plans for workfare in manifesto

CHRIS BLACKHURST and
ANTHONY BEVINS

Conservative strategists are planning to include a scheme for "workfare", forcing the long-term unemployed out to work and off the dole queue, in the party's general election manifesto.

Currently called "Contract to Work" in senior Tory circles, the tough US-style initiative is being viewed enthusiastically by both the Downing Street Policy Unit and Conservative Central Office, who see it as a potential vote-winner. They

believe the proposal will meet with warm approval from their supporters and will steal a march on Labour, which is believed to be thinking along similar, but less Draconian, lines.

A pattern is beginning to emerge of a strong line to run through the manifesto - representing tough, nonsense values that Conservative strategists believe will appeal to working voters who resent "cheats", "scroungers" and young "tareaway".

The result will not only be the promotion of workfare, which was backed by deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine 10 years ago, but

a more hardline approach to young offenders.

One possibility being mooted on youth crime is another United States response - the curfew - which could be slapped on persistent young criminals, forcing them off the streets during the hours of darkness. Manifesto policies are also being sought to deal with disruptive pupils in schools.

Both Whitehall and Central Office sources have confirmed that work on the controversial workfare policy is well advanced and say it could be flagged at the forthcoming party conference. A range of options is un-

der review, the most radical of which is encouraging employers to give work with training to young, unemployed people. They would be paid by the employer and have their benefit stopped.

Acceptance of the proposal represents a victory in Whitehall for Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, and Norman Blackwell, head of the Downing Street think-tank, who persuaded Treasury to drop its opposition to workfare.

They are hopeful that two pilot studies by the Department of Education and Employment, currently

underway in Hull and Maidstone, will highlight the positive aspects of such a scheme. Opponents of workfare argue it makes the state the employer of those at the bottom of the jobs market and threatens those in non-subsidised, low-paid work.

Workfare said one policy adviser, could result in three jobs being removed from the dole list for every one created. "It will take off the person who is forced to work. It will get rid of the cheats who have been claiming benefit for years while doing other work. Now, unless they do a community job, they will no longer

receive benefit. Third, those people who could get a job but choose not to, because the dole is a soft option, will sign-off and take a job."

In the Hull and Maidstone exercises, people aged between 18 and 50 who have been unemployed for more than two years are given intensive help over 12 weeks to help them find a job or a place on a training course. After that, if they are still unemployed, they must work for 13 weeks on a community project. Run by charities, the projects cover menial tasks like gardening for the elderly and renovating tourist sites.

They receive normal unemployment benefit plus £10 a week, paid by the Government. The two pilot studies are budgeted to cost £12m and have just entered the 13-week community work phase.

In order to be seen to be cracking down on benefit abuses, senior Tories intend workfare to be mandatory: unemployed people will have no choice if they wish to continue being paid but to work. Tory resolve has been reinforced by a recent survey showing two out of three people would back some form of workfare.

Leading article, page 15



Out of time: A purge of gypsies living in caravans on their own land without planning permission is likely after the European Court ruled yesterday that local authorities had the right to evict them. Report, page 5

Dublin enters shooting row

JOHN RENTOU and
JASON BENNETTO

The Irish prime minister yesterday stepped into the growing controversy over the shooting of a suspected IRA terrorist in London. Addressing the Dail in Dublin, John Bruton called for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Diarmuid O'Neill, 27, on Monday morning.

The intervention by the Taoiseach came as Tony Blair, the Labour leader, was embroiled in a furious row with two left-wing MPs over plans to meet Sinn Fein.

Mr Bruton's comments appeared to lend some support to the accusations made by Gerry Adams, who said yesterday: "The media was briefed that this man was killed in a gunfight and now we are being told that this is not the case. That not only was there no gunfight, not only did he not fire any shots, but it now appears that he didn't even have a weapon," the Sinn Fein president said.

Mr Adams was supported by John O'Donoghue, justice spokesman for the opposition Fianna Fail party, who said he feared police may have operated a "shoot-to-kill" policy. He demanded an inquiry "at the very highest level".

Scotland Yard is refusing to comment officially on the shooting, but confirmed yesterday via "sources" that O'Neill, who was known as Dermot, was unarmed when he was shot up to 10 times at a guest house in Hammersmith, west London. He died later in hospital.

Clear links between Mr O'Neill and an IRA active service unit have been established,

according to intelligence sources in London, although Irish sources have questioned this assertion.

The anti-terrorist officers involved in the raid had been informed, incorrectly, that there were firearms in the guest house. MI5 would have provided the bulk of intelligence, much of which was probably ob-

tained from telephone and electronic listening devices.

Scotland Yard sources were confident yesterday that an ongoing investigation by the Police Complaints Authority will exonerate them of any wrongdoing. A police source said: "The officers involved were in fear of their lives and believed the suspect was armed."

Yesterday, it emerged that the five men - one of whom is Mr O'Neill's brother, Shane, 23, - facing a fourth day in police custody are being questioned about the massive Docklands lorry bomb in February in which two people died. Monday's seizures and raids are not, at this stage, believed to be linked with that incident.

Meanwhile, the inquest on O'Neill, who has Irish parents and was born and brought up in London, was opened and his body was released for burial.

As the "shoot-to-kill" allegations mounted, Mr Blair cracked the party whip yesterday with a threat to discipline Labour MPs Tony Benn and Jeremy Corbyn if they went ahead

with today's planned meeting at the House of Commons with Sinn Fein leader.

The proposed visit threw the Labour Party into turmoil after Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip, issued a blunt warning that Mr Corbyn, MP for Islington North, faced "disciplinary action" if he went ahead with the meeting.

Clive Soley, Labour MP for Hammersmith, where an IRA bomb was discovered and disarmed earlier this year, said his constituents "will not understand" Mr Corbyn's action in "giving a propaganda platform to a party that is soft on violence".

that the room in the Palace of Westminster for the meeting had been booked in the joint names of Mr Corbyn and Tony Benn, veteran leader of the left.

Labour MPs yesterday condemned Mr Corbyn and urged him to pull out of the "private meeting" with Mr Adams - arranged after a news conference to publicise Mr Adams's autobiography was banned by the Commons authorities.

Clive Soley, Labour MP for Hammersmith, where an IRA bomb was discovered and disarmed earlier this year, said his constituents "will not understand" Mr Corbyn's action in "giving a propaganda platform to a party that is soft on violence".

Tongue-tied at parties?
Can't start a conversation? Help is here, page 3

World ends when you can't hear Naughtie

ANTHONY BEVINS

The end of civilisation will be marked by a deathly hush from James Naughtie and his colleagues on the BBC radio programme *Today*, commanders of Trident submarines have been told.

In a preface to a new book on post-war politics, *Muddling Through* out today, contemporary historian Peter Hennessy pays tribute to Radio 4 as part of the national identity.

But he then reveals a chilling secret about the procedure for war.

"I was tickled (in a grim way) rather than surprised to learn that the final check the commander of a Royal Navy Polaris or Trident submarine would make, deep under the waters of the North Atlantic, to determine whether a United Kingdom still existed, before he opened his sealed orders on retaliation after a pre-emptive nuclear strike, would be to tune in to the Radio 4 *Today* programme."

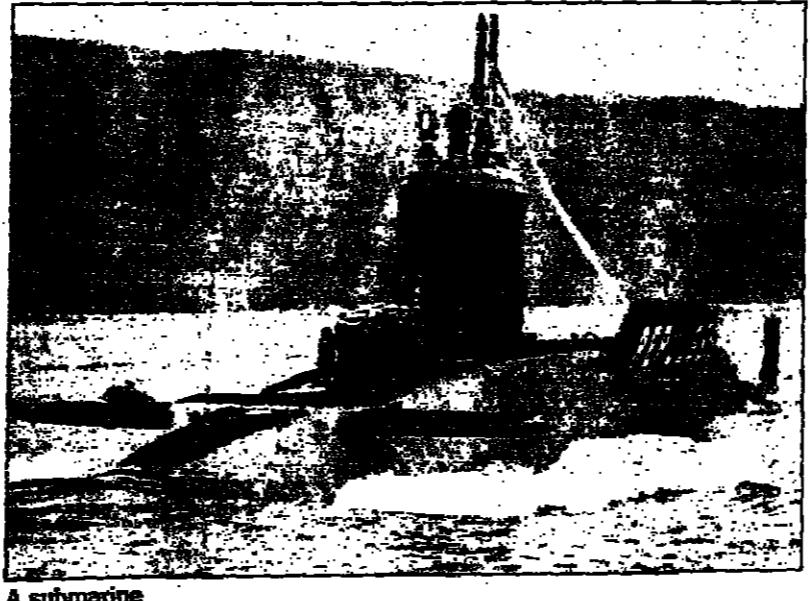
If, after a highly secret number of days, there is no Jim Naughtie, John Humphrys, Anna Ford, those last instructions from a by-now-deceased Prime Minister would be opened.

Mr Hennessy, Professor of Contemporary History at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, describes the procedure as "a final if macabre tribute to a broadcasting service sans pareil".

I used sometimes to wonder if Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister knew about this particular subsidiary function of *Today*, a programme of which she was a regular but rarely satisfied listener."



James Naughtie



A submarine

Professor Hennessy said yesterday: "If the Trident commander could not pick up *Today*, that would be that. He would then have to decide whether to launch the missiles, or go off to New Zealand. He would know that there was no point in going back to base, in Faslane."

Mr Naughtie told *The Independent* that he certainly did not know of the Trident commanders' orders to listen in to *Today*.

"I suppose we've always known we have listeners everywhere," he said.

"It now appears we have them in the depths of the ocean. I think that may be marginally surprising, since some people

don't appear able to get decent reception in the Highlands of Scotland, and they can get it at the bottom of the various oceans of the world."

But he added: "For their sake and for ours, I hope they never have to go for too long without *Today*".

In his book, which includes a number of his Radio 4 broadcasts, Professor Hennessy says that the decision to launch a nuclear strike is otherwise held exclusively by the Prime Minister of the day.

Lord Callaghan, the former Labour prime minister, told him in one programme: "I don't think I ever sat down

and contemplated [the decision]. It was one of the things that one had to face for many years, and I took part in exercises that would lead up to the point where you either discharged the missile or you capitulated."

Those exercises were not very pleasant occasions, but it's one of the matters that you have to live with, and I found no difficulty in living with it, although I would have found great difficulty in having to take the decision.

"Nevertheless," he continued, "that is your job, that is your responsibility, and I would have taken whatever decision was appropriate."

QUICKLY

Major's new spin

The Prime Minister is to hold a "question-and-answer" session at the Conservative conference next month, in order to present him as relaxed in debate with party activists.

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Fraud juries call

George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, yesterday called for an end to the use of juries in the most complex fraud trials.

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Revenge of the Hollywood wives



Memo (urgent) to Lady Diana: An absolute must-do in Washington before you go home tonight - go see *First Wives Club*. It's awfully silly, but it's also a scream. I just know you'll love it (and, my dear, there isn't an ex-wife left in Manhattan who hasn't already seen it). Maybe the First Wife/Lady (!) can arrange for a screening in the White House?? Enjoy, a friend.

The Princess of Wales may not actually have gone to this film during her two-day visit to Washington this week, but she cannot possibly have escaped hearing about it. (Although it is doubtful anyone will have dared relate in her presence one of the best jokes in it, which uses the b-word, *bulimia*). It is the revenge-comedy that every extra-trophy-wife, from Beverly Hills to New York's Park Avenue, has been waiting for.

Starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton, as a trio of marital discards, the movie has already attained that elusive quality that Hollywood studios usually only dream of - a social "phenomenon" that is attracting serious analysis, even portentous commentaries in the weekly, as well as mega-takings at the box office.

The film's begins with our hapless, forty-to-fifty-something gals rediscovering an old school-age friendship while attending the funeral of another old friend who has jumped from a window after the break-up of her marriage.

Instantly, they recognise the new bond that ties them all together. All have given their best years and energies to highly successful and socially-visible husbands who now sincere-mou-niously ditch them in favour of

A new film about first wives getting their revenge after being dumped is big box office in the US



Trio with the knives out: Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler play revengeful discards in 'First Wives Club', not to be confused with Ivana Trump (left) and Sondra Locke

younger, more firm-bodied, models. Equally obvious, to cast and audience alike, is where the plot must thereafter take them - to revenge on these ungrateful jerks. So, hold on to your crotches, guys, it's pay-back time, these girls aren't fooling.

The recklessly illogical nature of the various strategies and the self-righteous gooseness of the film's culmination (the women, having humiliated their exes, set up a self-help clinic for scorned wives) has ensured that critical reaction has been lukewarm at best. But such is the attractiveness of the stars, the momentum of the movie is

hard to resist. Moreover, it is packed with bitter and often hilarious one-liners that any insecure wife might care to write down for possible future use.

It is Midler, playing a Jewish Italian housewife, who, on sight of the new bimbo acquired by Morty, (her electrical-appliance king of an ex-husband) declares "Well, the bulimia certainly paid off". And she has this priceless exchange:

"Where's your little girlfriend Morty?" "She's waiting in the car." "Where - in the glove compartment?"

But what gives the film its credentials with the commentators is

that she was tricked out of a palimony settlement from the actor, with whom she had lived for 11 years before being dumped, with promises of a film-directing deal with Warner Brothers. Nothing came of the agreement which, according to Ms Locke, Mr Eastwood had deliberately sabotaged.

And there are lines like this from Midler to Hawn about her colleague prowess: "Thanks to Cher's pioneering efforts, you still haven't puberty!"

The observant movie-goer

may also enjoy the real-life coincidence of Clint Eastwood having the tables dramatically turned on him by an ex-lover in California this week. Mr East-

wood is the living proof of the observation made in the movie by Ms Hawn that men can get away with being considered sexy until well into their dotage.

There are only three ages for women in Hollywood," Ms Hawn notes. "Bebe, district attorney and Driving Miss Daisy." Comparing that not to Eastwood but to Sean Connery, she adds: "He's 300 years old, and he's still a stud."

Offering her own pseudosocial bubble on the film, Margaret Carlson, a columnist for *Time* magazine, suggests the fiction is important because it represents a reaction to the trophy-spouse ethos of the Eighties when dumping ex-wives not only escaped criticism



but was even lauded. "At the very least, it works as an antidote to the zeitgeist of the 1980s, when middle-aged tycoons and their acolytes could suddenly drop an inconvenient wife without social opprobrium," she writes.

Ms Hawn herself has admitted that the movie, while primarily a comedy, has aroused more heart-felt reactions, not least amongst America's very large community of ditched spouses. "Women grow older, men want someone younger; it's an age-old issue," she said. "We tried to be funny - revenge is fun in a comedy - but I think we have hit a nerve, too."

So far, the audiences at the film have been overwhelmingly female. Men, it appears, are not especially attracted to this blockbuster. And husbands who have themselves at some point traded old wives for sleeker, racier versions, are likely to be particularly reluctant viewers for this entertainment.

Prince Charles, who recently has been seen once more in the company of Camilla Parker Bowles, may not precisely fit into this explored category. Even so, perhaps this memo should be forwarded to His Highness: Skip this one.

The Irish bombers:
what sort of
people are
they?

David
McKittrick.
trick. Page 4

Whitehall truth treatment makes beef perfectly safe

LIZ HUNT AND
CHARLES ARTHUR

Whitehall mandarins have wrought big changes on Britain in recent years. Now they are even changing the language.

Two departments yesterday added to a tide of "Newspeak" - the official language of Oceania in George Orwell's novel 1984 - and carried out cosmetic surgery on the meaning of "safe" and "good".

Both have now been redefined to suit the needs of the rule-makers, though with none of the eloquence and little of the style of Sir Humphrey, their fictional counterpart.

At the Department of Health, Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, declared that "safe" actually meant there was some risk, albeit negligible.

The latest edition of the Oxford Pocket Dictionary defines "safe" as "free of risk or danger".

injury" or "secure, not risky".

Meanwhile the Department of the Environment insisted that its classification of air quality as "good" on days when the concentration of ozone exceeded internationally accepted health guidelines was entirely correct.

Thus, when fellow Europeans are breathing air with ozone levels above 50 parts per billion they are told that air quality is "not good", while in Britain it is defined as "good".

Sir Kenneth's classification of risk, outlined in his annual report on public health, said "negligible" meant an adverse event occurring at a frequency below one per million. "Other words which can be used in this context are 'remote' or 'insignificant,'" he said. "If the word 'safe' is to be used, it must be seen to mean negligible, but should not imply no, or zero, risk."

So under the new Whitehall definition, eating beef is "safe"

even though there may be some risk - a negligible one - linked with the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, confirmed in 12 people to date.

Asked how "safe" could mean anything other than "zero risk", Sir Kenneth said: "I think that's only partially what it's defined. Safe to cross the road doesn't mean there's no risk in crossing the road. It's negligible, but there's a slim chance."

However, any latter-day Winston Smith toiling in the Ministry of Truth would find no career boost in writing a speech for a minister to stand up and declare that there was a "negligible risk" of catching a deadly disease from eating beef. He or she must reassure the voters, and the export industry, that beef is safe. Thus, in the best traditions of Newspeak and doublethink (the art of believing two conflicting ideas at once) the definition of safe has been changed.

Yet the department said there had been "poor" air quality at its hundreds of monitoring sites, which provide data hourly, on only 39 occasions.

The system forms a quick introduction to five questions that a party's host can choose. At its first outing, at an MIT Media Lab function, arriving guests filled in a computer form with multiple choice answers to questions. They included "How would you like to spend your 15 minutes of fame" (choices profiled in the New York Times, interviewed by Oprah Winfrey, as a hyperlink on a World-Wide Web page of the Internet) and "Who would you most like to have dinner with" (choices: the lawyers from the OJ Simpson trial, assorted MIT gurus, or Peter Gabriel and Lauryn Hill).

Called "Groupware", the badge has five small lights which can flash either red or green. When you meet somebody who is also wearing one, the badges communicate by infra-red beams, just like a television remote control, and swap data about their wearers. The more alike your interests, the more green lights you get - the more you disagree, the more red lights.

Rick Borovoy, a graduate student at the Media Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, invented the "talking tags" and agrees that they could be ideally suited for singles bars and other social situations where people are eager to talk but unsure where to start. "That's the top use that people suggest," he said yesterday.

Mr Borovoy says that much of the usefulness of the badges lies in framing interesting questions. But all is not lost even if your badges show that you disagree on all sorts of subjects. "We've had people who are good friends getting five red lights," he said.

"And with people who hadn't met each other, that often turned out to mean that you had more to talk about. People felt it was intriguing."

Mr Borovoy says that a lot of MIT's commercial sponsors have expressed interest in developing consumer versions of the badges.

But for the moment those who find social occasion problematic still have to rely on the time-tested question: "With what frequency do you visit this location?"

Talking tags: the perfect icebreaker for nerds

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

Tongue-tied at drinks parties? Can't start the conversation? Don't worry - technology has devised an answer, in the form of a lapel badge that literally lights up when you meet somebody with similar interests.

Called "Groupware", the badge has five small lights which can flash either red or green. When you meet somebody who is also wearing one, the badges communicate by infra-red beams, just like a television remote control, and swap data about their wearers. The more alike your interests, the more green lights you get - the more you disagree, the more red lights.

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badges, which then send out beams to any other badge in the vicinity to see if the answers agree.

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Fears of local authority purge after European court backs refusal of planning permission for woman to live in her own caravan



On the open road: In recent years gypsies have tried to adapt to new realities, but their traditional way of life is long gone
Photograph: Hulton Getty

Draw round the caravans, the gypsy way of life may be going forever

LOUISE JURY and CLARE GARNER

A gypsy refused planning permission for her caravan now faces eviction after the European Court of Human Rights ruled against her.

The court decided South Cambridgeshire District Council had taken the traditional lifestyle of June Buckley into account when it would not let her stay on land she owned, and had not acted unreasonably in asking her to leave.

The decision could affect up to 400 other gypsies believed to be living illegally on their own land and last night prompted fears of a purge against them by local authorities.

However, the case could also

pave the way for greater long-term security for gypsies as, in deciding to accept the case, the European Court recognised for the first time that their way of life might be protected under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mrs Buckley and her solicitor, Luke Clements, said they would fight on. "I won't stop here," she said. "A year ago, the Government said they wanted to encourage travellers to buy their own land and develop it. Now we are starting to do it, they don't want it."

Mr Clements added: "This is the first gypsy case that has ever got to Strasbourg. It would have been lovely to win, but the court has unanimously said it will consider each case on its

merits. This is the beginning of the court getting to grips with the problems gypsies face."

Mrs Buckley, 32, bought her land in Willington, south Cambridgeshire, for £2,500 in 1988 and moved on to it five years ago. She was refused planning permission for her caravan because the council believed it would detract from the rural landscape.

She complained to the court in February 1992 under the European Convention on Human Rights' article granting everyone respect for their family life and home without public interference, except where interference was "necessary in a democratic society".

In yesterday's majority ruling, the court said it had weighed her



Fighting all the way: June Buckley yesterday in her caravan. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

A people apart

■ Gypsies used to be thought of as originating in Egypt, hence the name; but they are now believed to be of North Indian origin, arriving in England at about the turn of the 16th Century.

■ A law was passed expelling gypsies from England in 1531, and Scotland in 1541. Henry VIII further decreed that anyone meeting a gypsy could beat them with a clear conscience. His daughter Elizabeth later passed a law saying they could legally be sold into slavery as slaves.

■ Supposed fear of spying led to a law in 1939 which made it illegal for any gypsy caravan to be sited within 10 miles of coastline.

■ Around half a million European gypsies were killed by the Nazis before and during the Second World War.

■ The number of gypsies (defined by the National Gypsy Council as "persons of nomadic tradition") in the UK today is estimated as 50,000; the number of gypsy caravans is thought to be around 14,000.

Ben Summers

Cambridgeshire's legal and housing director, said the rules would be enforced. The council had granted more planning permissions to travellers on their own land - nearly 180 spaces - than any local authority.

Robert Jones, planning minister, said the Government would consider the judgment but saw no need for changes to UK planning practice. "The court has recognised the common sense of the UK position."

Hughie Smith, National Gypsy Council president, said: "I'm concerned at the decision. It may give credence to local authorities who turn down planning applications by gypsies on the weakest of excuses." There were 14,000 caravans in Britain, excluding New Age travellers.

Gang boy 'admitted Lawrence stabbing'

CHARLIE BAIN

A teenage boy yesterday described to an Old Bailey jury how the 15-year-old leader of a Triad-style gang turned to his friends and confessed to stabbing headmaster Philip Lawrence moments after the fatal assault.

The 16-year-old witness - who cannot be named for legal reasons - described events leading up to the father-of-four's death and told how he was invited to join the gang on the day Mr Lawrence was murdered.

The youth told the court how he had met 11 other boys at Burger King in Euston station where they planned to descend on St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale to beat up another boy.

"One of the boys said it was going to be a laugh," the witness

told the jury. He said he had met the defendant, who was the self-appointed leader of the gang, three or four times before. He didn't know the name of the gang "but other people called them 'Triads'", he said.

He described how they rounded up more gang members from King's Cross station and returned to Euston where the defendant organised them into three groups.

"We were to back up the other two groups," he said, "the first was going to fight, the second group was to help them and then if people came and jumped in, then my group were to go in."

The gang took a tube train to Maida Vale where they split up into their prearranged groups and marched on St. George's, with the defendant leading the way.

It was at this point that a fight broke out, the witness said. There was lots of shouting behind me from the direction of the school gates ... I turned around and I saw a large group of people and a pole being raised in the air and brought down ... twice."

The witness told the jury how the gang ran away from the school in disarray, regrouping in a nearby street. Moments later, the defendant joined them "looking worried".

"He said he'd made a mistake and that he'd stabbed a teacher," said the witness.

The 16-year-old defendant denies the charge of murder and two further charges of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent.

A co-defendant, also aged 15, denies the latter two charges. The trial continues today.

Police chiefs attacked for opposing Howard reform

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The head of a senior police association yesterday attacked what he described as "young" and "so-called progressive" chief constables for opposing Home Office proposals for tough new sentencing regimes.

At the same time, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, conceded that his plans for a crack down on repeat offenders may fail to become law

before the general election if opposed in Parliament. His proposals cover minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers, and automatic life sentences for second-time sex and violent offenders.

The accusation of attitudes being too liberal came from Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents Association of England and Wales, speaking at its annual conference in Stratford-upon-Avon.

He had heard of university-educated chief constables opposing Mr Howard's key planks, but said it was "in the national interest" for them to go through.

Mr Howard, speaking at the conference, stressed that the proposals should pass to the statute book. However, they have already prompted stern opposition from the judiciary, including the previous Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor. In May, Lord Taylor said: "Never in the history of criminal law have such far-reaching proposals been put forward on the strength of such flimsy and dubious evidence."

The judiciary said minimum sentences would limit their discretion in fitting punishment to cases. The measures would also increase the prison population.

Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, says Labour will oppose any plans for the removal of judicial discretion.

New legislation to outlaw

stalking could be on the statute book before the next general election, the Home Secretary said yesterday.

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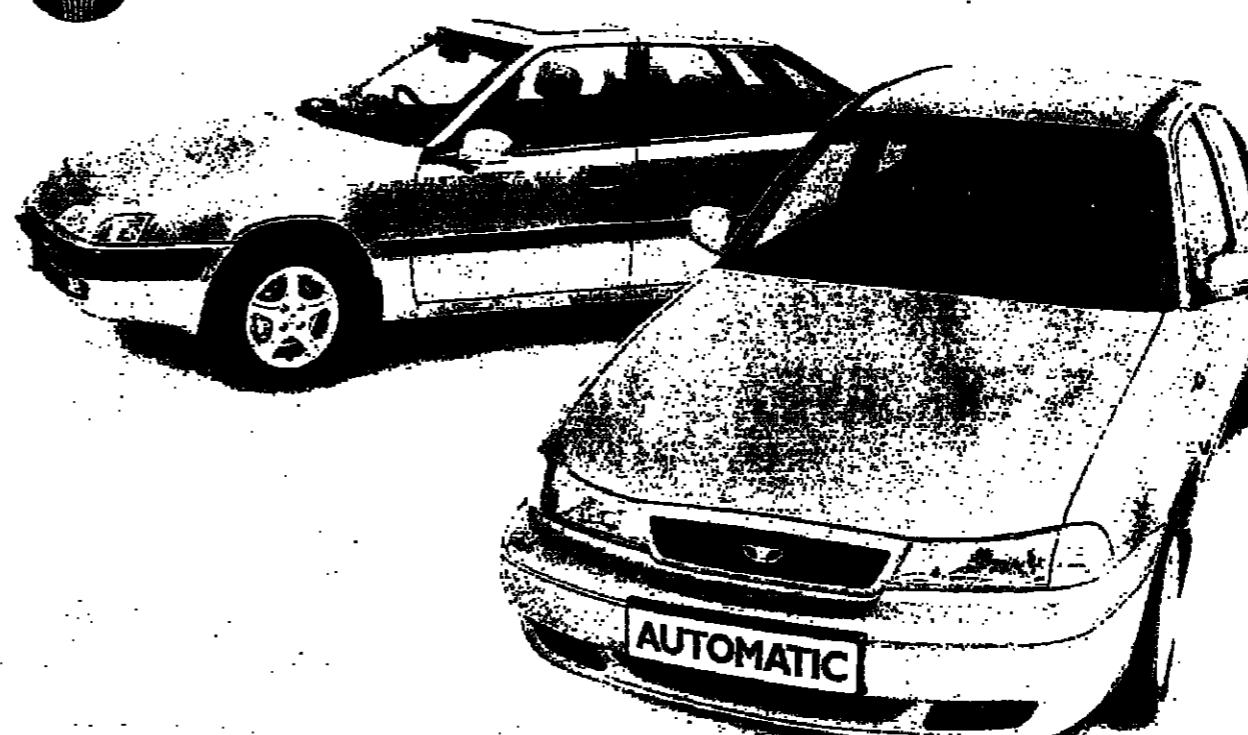
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MERCURY

David Aaronovitch tries not to get into bed with Labour.

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news

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS IN BRIGHTON

£350m for NHS from perks purge

ANTHONY BEVINS

Political Editor

The Liberal Democrats would close a tax loophole which feeds City "cats", to raise an extra £350m a year for the National Health Service, the party's spokesman Simon Hughes pledged yesterday.

Mr Hughes told the Liberal Democrats' conference in Brighton that the party would make good its long-standing promise to close the loophole through which employers avoid paying National Insurance contributions on perk payments.

Of the £350m raised by the move, he said, £200m would be spent recruiting and retaining much-needed staff, and the remaining £150m would be used to bring down to six months the maximum waiting time between hospital diagnosis and treatment.

The loophole, Mr Hughes said, allowed some of the "cats", of whatever size, in the City and elsewhere to receive huge sums from tax-dodging employers "who should know better".

"Millions of pounds have been paid in gold bars, life policies, expensive wines and other valuables to avoid paying tax to the Exchequer. Responsible firms shouldn't spend their time thinking up tax wheezes, and we wouldn't let them. We'd close this illogical loophole for good," he said.

Unfortunately, the Inland Revenue later pointed out that parts of the loophole had already been closed, including those relating to gold bars.

Nevertheless, and with few believing that Mr Hughes would be in a position as the Secretary of State for Health, to deliver either the money or his promise, he said that the money raised from such a move over the remaining six months of the financial year would be enough to fund the current year's £178m NHS deficit. "With this

additional sum, the currently forecast cuts in this year's services need not now go ahead," he said. "It will be possible to halt the current finance-driven reduction of beds, wards and other services."

Mr Hughes said that in many parts of the country, particularly in urban areas, general practitioners were retiring, and not being replaced. There had also been a dramatic reduction in the number of nurses qualifying.

In 1983, there were 37,000 new nurses. By last year, there were 13,000 new nurses. In 1998, there are likely to be only 6,000. It is little wonder that some hospital managers have had to fly to Canada to recruit.

Mr Hughes said that people no longer felt they were working for a single, coherent, and proud National Health Service. He called for three-year contracts to help health authorities to plan ahead, and a return to national pay bargaining for nurses.

As for the Tories' "reform gone mad", Mr Hughes asked: "Who knows what is going on in our health service? Surely somebody knows how many hospitals there are? How many casualty departments are open? Where beds are available, and what are the real length of waiting lists?"

Mr Hughes said that no one had any answers as to what was really going on in the NHS. The market was not working in the health service, but it was impossible to find out how bad things really were. All further bed and hospital closures should be halted for a year, he said, while an independent national audit of health demand and provision was carried out.

"The precondition to regaining national control of the National Health Service," he said, "is to regain public control of the facts".



This won't hurt a bit: Alan Beith, the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, takes to the dentist's chair as his party debates the health of nation at its conference in Brighton yesterday

Photograph: Tom Plston

Local choice on new grammar schools

FRAN ABRAMS

Councils should be allowed to open new grammar schools, the Liberal Democrats agreed yesterday. Delegates passed a motion which would leave decisions on the future of selective schools to local communities.

Some had argued that while authorities should be able to decide on the future of existing grammars, they should

not be free to discuss the possibility of new ones.

The party remains opposed to wholesale plans for a grammar school in every town, which has been proposed by the Government. Its policy is in line with that of Labour, which would allow parents to vote on whether selection should continue where it already exists. Delegates voted 308-299 for

his view but several speakers opposed it. Stephanie Bailey, from Yeovil, Somerset, the constituency of Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said Liberal Democrats should stand up for what they believed in. "This debate is about the reintroduction of grammar schools, a recipe for social division. We will not sanction a return to the past, in which young children are told they are failures at age 11."

Delegates

MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUOTES OF THE DAY

GOOD DAY BAD DAY DEVIL OF THE DAY

LORD BILLY RODGERS

THE CROWD PULLERS ON THE FRINGE

THE PARTY TO BE SEEN AT

SIGHTINGS

RAPTUREMETER

TODAY'S BUSINESS

Debates on Burns, race victims, and housing. Closing speeches, from Alan Beith, deputy leader; Baroness (Shirley) Williams and Lord (Richard) Holme. Compiled by Stephen Goodwin

Demand for aid package

No room in the bed for Labour



DAVID AARONOVITCH

explainable by the considerate placing of a wall-length mirror behind the speaker's table.

I would, I must admit, love to have Tony Greaves as my councillor. Very soon his vast energy, fantastic head for detail and phenomenally high boredom threshold, would sort out all those niggling problems that councils usually fail to deal with. So I am sure that his constituents revere him. I am also sure that they train their dogs to warn of his approach, so that they can hide in the garden.

For Tony is not easy-going. As his speech unfurled it transpired that he didn't want to get into bed with the media either. Or with the leadership of his own party (who failed to understand politics). Or with many of the members of his own party (who were fairweather folk).

This all went down famously with his audience. They were now the real lefties, not Labour. The leader of the Sheffield Lib-Dems predicted the mass defection of "radical, young, educated 20-year-olds in public sector jobs, living in council estates". But Tony Blair is not in competition for this tiny vote, which is why he makes his appeal to the inhabitants of those vast tracts of suburbia. The last thing he wants to find in his bed is Greaves and company. This makes some Lib-Dems into reverse stalkers – following others around, constantly pestering them by saying how much they don't like them, and how they are determined not to have their babies.

If's all a bit sad.

DEBT CRISIS

An immediate support package to help beef farmers through the winter was demanded by Liberal Democrats yesterday, writes Stephen Goodwin. With beef bull prices down up to £200 a head, some farmers faced bankruptcy, the conference was told.

In an emergency debate on the BSE crisis, a succession of farmers came to rostrum to denounce Douglas Hogg and his Government colleagues. Compensation to beef farmers amounting to about £54 a head was dismissed as a "flea bite". Jim Barnard, parliamentary candidate for Tiverton and Honiton said that as a farmer, life had become "an horrific rollercoaster ride of contradictory announcements and patetic day-to-day management" by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Early in the summer ministers predicted that the backlog of cattle over 30 months old awaiting the cull would be cleared by October. But Mr Barnard said that in the South-West of England alone there was still a backlog of almost 100,000 animals. "Farmers are entering the winter with more animals than they have fodder to feed," he said.

The conference called for immediate support to maintain the beef industry, emergency powers to remove the backlog of cattle awaiting the cull and the creation of a Food Safety Commission to reduce the risk of similar crises.

Why your tax return rebounds

Inland Revenue, page 7

Magnet

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Self-assessment causes chaos at Inland Revenue

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Confidential papers reveal that with less than six weeks to go before the introduction of self-assessment of tax the Inland Revenue faces a massive backlog of work, with staff in open rebellion over a proposed agreement to deal with the new system.

Internal figures show the department has already received 500,000 more letters than last year and 1 million more telephone inquiries in the run-up to launch day on 4 November. Post unanswered for more than a month has increased by more than 200,000 items. A £200m computer system has been unable to cope with test-runs for what ministers insist will be a simplified process.

As the Revenue attempts to deal with a huge increase in workload, staff has been cut by up to 1,000 over the past year and another 2,000 are set to go in the next 12 months. Some 75 rural tax offices are to close.

The looming crisis could mean complete chaos, with the PTC, the biggest Whitehall union, considering industrial action over a pay deal worth nearly twice the inflation rate, but tied to an agreement to work longer when necessary to cope with self-assessment.

Despite a recommendation

by the union's national executive, employees have rejected the 4.4-per-cent package by an unprecedented two to one. Only once before has a deal endorsed by the union been rejected by tax officers and then only by a wafer-thin majority.

Senior Revenue officials admit the department is facing an avalanche of extra work. An extra 9 million phone calls are expected next year after tax returns are sent out in April and an additional 300,000 visits by taxpayers to Revenue offices.

Jim McAuslan, deputy general secretary of the PTC, said the Inland Revenue had spent £25m on advertisements to persuade taxpayers to be ready for self-assessment by keeping their own records. "The truth of the matter however is that the Revenue itself is far from ready for self-assessment," he said.

Ministers said they expected the new method to be introduced on time but staff believe colleagues will be moved from other departments, including those chasing unpaid tax, to ensure the deadline is met. While ministers argued that self-assessment would make the lives of taxpayers easier, Mr McAuslan pointed out that an explanatory leaflet to be sent out

with returns is 40 pages long.

The Revenue's most experienced staff had left during the past year and they were the people needed to smooth over the transition to the new system. One of the local tax offices due to close is in John Major's Huntingdon constituency, Mr McAuslan said.

A Revenue spokeswoman said managers always expected an increased workload because of self-assessment but it would be a "one-off" as the new system was introduced. "There may be some temporary reduction in customer service in particular turnaround times" but officials were monitoring the situation and trying to minimise delays, she said.

Light of the World restores grand illumination to St Paul's



Victorian icon: An employee of Christie's gazes up at the newly restored 'Light of the World', painted by William Holman Hunt between 1901 and 1904. The masterpiece, which took seven months to clean, is one of the most celebrated religious works ever executed

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Court martial abused rights

Significant changes in the way court martials are conducted in Britain will not end the unfairness of the system, judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg were told yesterday.

Revised procedures aimed at reinforcing the independence of the military courts come into force next April. But that will be too late to help Falklands' veteran Alexander Findlay, said John Mackenzie, his lawyer.

Mr Findlay, 35, suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder after the battle of Tumbledown in 1982 - but that was overlooked when he was court martialed in 1991 for taking Army colleagues hostage at gunpoint in Northern Ireland. The former Scots Guardsman, who lives in Windsor, Berkshire, is still so traumatised he could not attend yesterday's session. But he accused the Government of breaching his human rights because of the conduct of his court martial.

Mr Mackenzie said that Mr Findlay had been denied a fair hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal, as guaranteed by the Human Rights Convention to which Britain is a signatory. He urged the judges in Strasbourg to find the Government in violation of the convention and to award substantial compensation.



Findlay: Suffering trauma

The case is just the first in a series of attempts by Army and RAF personnel who have faced a court martial to have the system scrapped as a breach of human rights. If the judges back Mr Findlay, the Ministry of Defence could face dozens of claims and a bill for millions of pounds, even though changes already have Royal Assent.

Mr Findlay pleaded guilty at his court martial to offences committed after a heavy drinking session and was jailed for two years. Mr Mackenzie told the human rights judges that the current court martial procedure could not be deemed a properly constituted court with appropriately trained officials having legal qualifications or experience. The verdict will be delivered next year.

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8
24 news

Architects on a roll at the coast

JONATHAN GLANCEY

Architectural awards are normally given to dignified, workable, elegant and even beautiful buildings.

No one would expect a roller-coaster on a north England pleasure beach to merit equal status with handsome churches and smart university extensions, but this year's Riba Awards for Architecture are a little different.

Among the 51 award-winners chosen by judges up and down the country on behalf of the Royal Institute of British Architects is a "station for the Pepsi-Max Big One, Blackpool Pleasure Beach" designed by Philip England. "This building," said the jury, "is seriously fun, a contrast with most of its frosty poly-Weymouth neighbours. It makes a fine contribution to Blackpool as it arrives at the centenary of its Pleasure Beach."

England's station is somewhat different from its Inter-City counterparts. Its function is to "handle the vertical transfer and storage of six trains, provide maintenance, workshops, and to load and unload passengers safely. It is designed for a maximum flow of 1,700 passengers per hour, and the loading section can hold 150 passengers at a time".

Passengers at this award-winning station are taken for a scream-a-second ride on the world's tallest, fastest roller-coaster

(high and 85 mph). England's design, said the judges, was thoughtful because it offered "a surprisingly calm space to contain the snaking queue of aspirants and quaking bodies of descendants".

Given Britain's ascent or descent, depending upon your point of view, over the past 15 years into a burger-chomping, Coke and Pepsi-swilling, baseball-cap-wearing, gum-chewing shopping-mall society in which leisure has become the prime social goal, it seems only appropriate that a roller-coaster station on

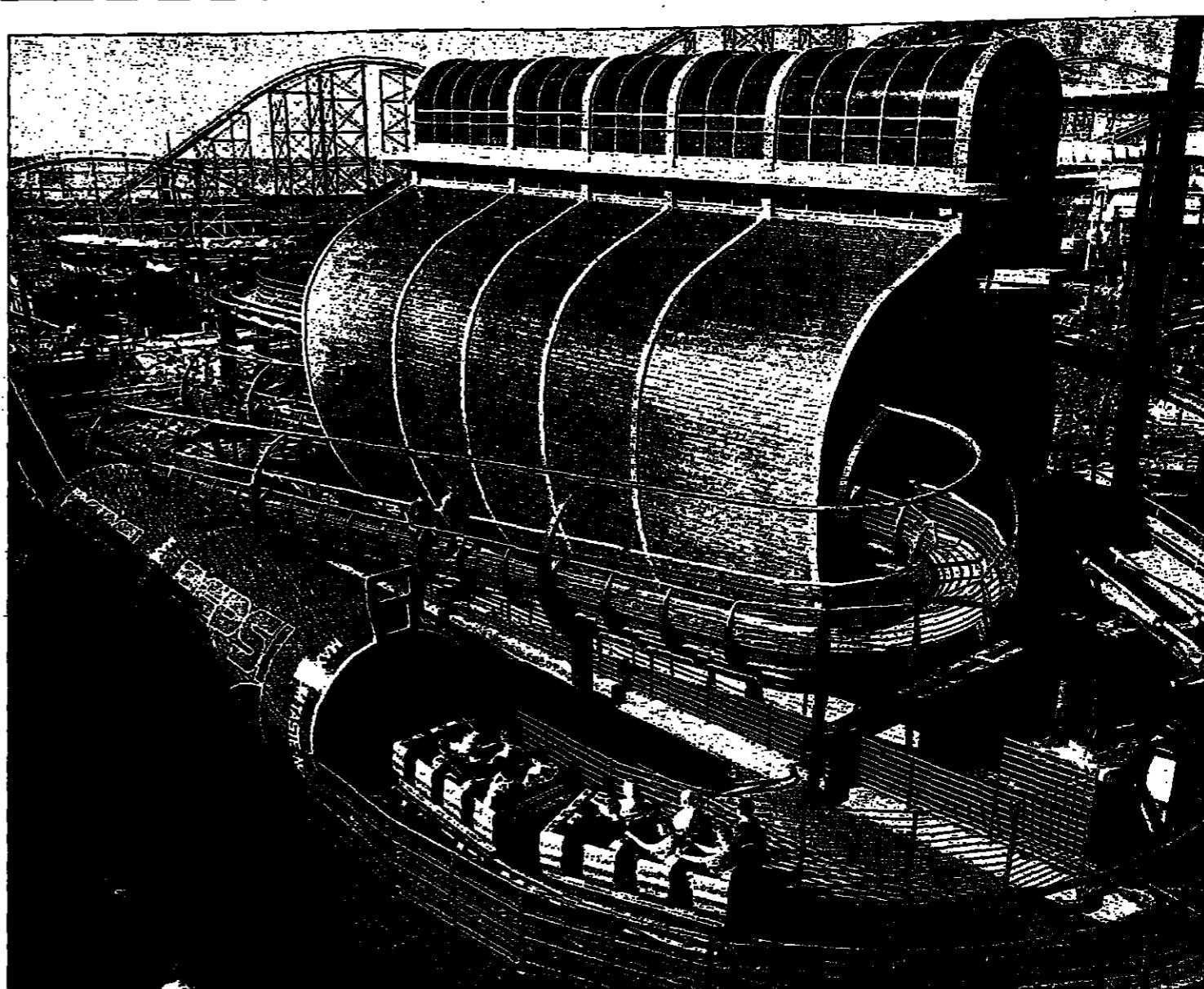
awards yesterday. The list suggests that a healthy number of civic buildings have been designed to high enough standards to win recognition from the Riba, yet Mr Luder said he was disappointed so few came from that sector: "I hope this is something that the National Lottery can rectify."

The National Lottery is itself something of a roller-coaster and, to date, there is hardly one major all-new building of any architectural merit being funded by Millennium sources.

This may well be because the new-style British Leisure plc (formerly Great Britain) is much more interested in providing fun (for which read bread and circuses) for its customers (citizens) than creating architecture and civic spaces of lasting value.

Nevertheless, among the other 50 award-winners are a number of fine buildings that bear out Mr Luder's belief that British architecture is enjoying something of a renaissance.

Among these is one mainline railway station, Ashford International, which was designed by Nick Derbyshire Design Associates, a civic design that represents the cultural link between Britain and Europe as opposed to the transatlantic leisure line between Britain and the United States so neatly laid by Philip England's Pepsi Max Big One at Blackpool.



New England: The acclaimed station for the Pepsi-Max Big One at Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Photograph: Howard Barlow



John Ware: Feared that BBC standards were declining

He deplored her standards. She was hurt and shocked. Now it's civil war at the BBC

MICHAEL STREETER

Civil war has broken out in the BBC over Esther Rantzen and her public row with the *Panorama* reporter, John Ware, about journalistic standards. Senior staff are dismayed that publicity surrounding the dispute is, in the words of one source, "getting completely out of hand... There is a civil war and it's one in which some cannons are being fired underground. Some of the things going on - memos leaked to the press, high-profile interviews and colleagues questioning people about their private life - are way over the top. The tragedy is that the important issues have been lost."

The initial dispute started over a newspaper article by Mr Ware attacking an edition of *The Rantzen Report* which had criticised the lack of care in the British Home and Hospital for Incurables in south London.

It focused on one patient, Ian Parker, and with the use of a hidden camera purported to show that he was left in a room to vegetate rather than being taken outside for stimulation.

Mr Ware said the programme failed to prove this central allegation and accused it of "sloppy and misleading" reporting and of having the "potential for seriously damaging" the BBC's reputation for fair-minded journalism. Ms Rantzen was "hurt and shocked"

by the attack, which amounted to a "perversion of the truth, a twisting of the facts". In *The Independent* she said: "I have been described... as a tabloid journalist. If this means I make popular, accessible programmes, it is a label I am proud to wear."

The BBC's director-general, John Birt, ordered an inquiry into the television episode and the article and a separate investigation into an allegation that Mr Ware had deliberately misled a witness while compiling his article, which he denies.

Battle lines have been drawn between those in the features department, who produce *The Rantzen Report*, and news and current affairs. A

news source said: "What John Ware said about journalistic standards and the fear of television distorting reality needed to be said."

Some sources believe there has been an attempt to avoid journalistic arguments and concentrate on "irrelevant" details, including Mr Ware's private life. Parts of a memo outlining the presenter's arguments were leaked to a newspaper, a lead publicly disowned by Ms Rantzen. The memo contains a claim by Ms Rantzen that Mr Ware failed to disclose a personal interest in his report, namely his friendship with a woman reporter whose mother works at the south London home.

The Independent has also discovered that in the last of a series of memos, Ms Rantzen personally demanded from Mr Ware confirmation of the friendship by 2.30pm. It is claimed that within an hour of the "deadline" on 30 August, tabloid journalists rang a future boss of the woman reporter, asking about the relationship.

The next day, an interview with Ms Rantzen appeared in the same paper in which she said: "I think [Mr Ware] is motivated by a profound dislike of me and my work." Mr Ware, who refused to answer her questions, is believed to have told BBC bosses he wrote the article because of concern about journalistic standards and was not motivated by the friendship.



Esther Rantzen: Hurt and shocked' by reporter's article

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Turks' offensive against Kurds alarms EU

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

Eighteen leaders of Turkey's only legal Kurdish political party went on trial in Ankara yesterday as thousands of Turkish troops continued an offensive against Kurdish rebels in the violence-ridden south-east.

A state prosecutor told the court that the People's Democracy Party (Hdip) was a front for the banned Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), the rebel

group fighting the armed forces in the south-east. The Kurdish politicians are accused of "leadership of an armed gang" and face up to 22 years in prison if convicted. Another 23 lower-ranking party members face maximum sentences of 15 years.

The trial has attracted the attention of European politicians and pressure groups who accuse the Turkish authorities of failing to honour repeated promises to clean up their human rights record. The European Parliament to reject customs union.

ment, which only reluctantly approved a European Union customs union with Turkey last year, threatened last week to block EU aid for Turkey unless it improved its performance.

Kurdish politicians formed Hdip in 1994 after Turkey's constitutional court banned another party for alleged separatism. Six Kurdish members of parliament were later imprisoned in a case that almost caused a rift between the European Parliament to reject customs union.

The trial coincides with a major anti-Kurdish military operation in the eastern province of Tunceli, where about 20,000 troops backed by bomber aircraft, helicopter gunships and tanks have attacked rebel positions. The mountainous region was visited this week by Turkey's chief of staff, Ismail Hakkı Karadayı, who claimed that 1,000 rebels had been killed in the south-east since 15 August.

"Whatever the age of the terrorist hiding in the mountains,

we have reduced his life expectancy," the general said. About 20,000 people are believed to have died during the 12-year war in the south-east, where the PKK is fighting for Kurdish autonomy.

In another sign of the tensions surrounding the Kurdish issue, at least nine prisoners, mostly PKK members, died last Tuesday during a riot at a jail in the south-eastern city of Diyarbakır. The riot broke out after prisoners protested that the

government had not improved jail conditions, as it promised to do after a nationwide hunger strike that ended last July with 12 inmates starved to death.

Violence flared when inmates at the Diyarbakır prison refused to let the authorities transfer 14 fellow-prisoners to another jail. Prison officials have often dispersed inmates or placed them in single cells as a way of breaking up tight-knit, politically extreme groups that would find it easy to take control of the large, sprawling wards in Turkish prisons.

Kurdish problems have intensified at a sensitive time for the Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, Turkey's first Islamist leader since the fall of the Ottoman Empire. He is attempting to balance traditional closeness to the West with new alliances with Islamic and other non-Western countries.

Yet Mr Erbakan started the United States, Turkey's mainly, by making Iran the destination of his first foreign trip. He may upset the US even more by announcing that next week he intends to visit Libya and Nigeria, both out of favour with Western governments.

Meanwhile, Mrs Foreign Minister, Tansu Ciller, shocked the US last weekend by suggesting Turkey would be happy to see President Saddam Hussein take control of northern Iraq. Mrs Ciller's remarks were at sharp odds with US policy, and she quickly withdrew them.

German castration lobby grows louder

IMRE KARACS
Bonn

As the seven-year-old Bavarian girl murdered by a known child molester was buried in her village yesterday, the German parliament was set to rush through draconian laws against sex offenders.

"The great pain renders us speechless and stunned," said Bishop Rudolf Schnidt in his requiem Mass in the village of Epfach, where the body of Natalie Astner was discovered on Sunday. In front of the altar, decorated with white carnations, stood a smiling picture of Natalie. Most of the 500 members of the Catholic community attended the service, and most of Germany appeared to be with them in spirit.

The politicians, however, have been anything but speechless. The government of Bavaria is to submit proposals to the Bonn parliament today calling for longer prison terms for child molesters and compulsory chemical castration.

The law would raise the maximum term for rape to 15 years from the current 10, and legalise preventive detention for offenders deemed dangerous to the community.

Some liberals have criticised the conservative Bavarians' knee-jerk reaction, but in the wave of outrage sweeping Germany their voices are drowned out by louder chorus of indignation. Primed by the events in Belgium in recent weeks, the German public is baying for blood.

Natalie's alleged killer, an electrician named Armin Schreiner, 27, is said to have confessed to abducting and killing her, although he denies sexual abuse. Police said that Mr Schreiner, who knew Natalie's father, kidnapped the girl less than 100 yards from her home as she was going to school on Friday morning. He drove her to a country road, stripped her and sexually abused her.

Police said that according to his own version, Natalie begged for mercy, and promised not to reveal her secret to anyone. But he wanted to take no chances. He smashed Natalie's head against a tree and tossed her unconscious body into the river Lech. An hour after her disappearance, she was dead.

Mr Schreiner would still be in jail for the sexual abuse of children had he not been released early last year for good behaviour from a five-and-a-half

year sentence. Although the judicial authorities stand by their decision to free him, the laws on parole are certain to be tightened up.

The Bavarian call for castration, however, is facing a tougher ride in the federal assembly. The neutering lobby wants offenders to be injected with the drug Androcur, which counteracts the actions of male hormones produced in the brain. The "cure" is already available on a voluntary basis, with mixed results. "Chemical castration can be a help on an individual basis, but it makes no sense without additional psychotherapy," the psychiatrist Friedemann Pfäfflin said. There appear to be not enough psychiatrists in Germany to deal with all the offenders at once.

The biggest problem with chemical castration is that even if it succeeds in dampening a rapist's sex drive, the treatment would not affect his violent urges. Experts point out that, however perverse it may sound, only about 5 per cent of sexual offences are sexually motivated.

Following Natalie's death, Germans are inclined to argue that the other 95 per cent should be locked up for good.



Lessons of history: A portrait of Sun Yat-sen, who overthrew the Manchu dynasty and founded the Republic of China in 1911, is moved into Tiananmen Square in Peking yesterday ready for celebrations of National Day on 1 October

Photograph: Reuter

Gastronomic Garibaldi succumbs to fashion for dietary correctness

Rome — In 1891, a cranky old gentleman from Florence called Pellegrino Artusi published what was to become the bible of Italian cuisine, a collection of nearly 800 recipes entitled *The Science of Cooking and The Art of Eating Well*. It became an overnight success, winning Artusi the admiration of countless housewives who wrote to him in adoring tones, and turning him into a national figurehead, the Italian equivalent of Brillat-Savarin, Escoffier and Mrs Beeton all rolled into one.

These days, Artusi is looked upon as a kind of gastronomic Garibaldi, a man who brought together the disparate culinary traditions of the Italian regions

in the name of national unity. He is still read voraciously, not so much for his recipes as for his style, which displays a canny knack for story-telling in the tradition of the Arabian Nights. A tale about a homesick medical student from Romagna unfolds into a sumptuous recipe for cappelletti in brodo; his rendering of minestrone recalls a cholera epidemic in Livorno that claimed the life of the owner of a favourite restaurant.

Artusi is outrageous, demanding hours of hard manual labour to prepare dishes loaded down with lard, ox mar-

row and pig's trotters. A 70-year-old bachelor, Artusi was wonderfully reactionary, dismissing the sensitive constitutions of his lady correspondents as symptoms of nervous hypochondria.

Of course, no modern Italian household seriously tries to emulate his diet; instead, his book is treated as a much-loved piece of history (it is the volume most frequently stolen from public libraries).

So it was with a certain

amount of scepticism a few days ago that I tore off the plastic wrapping from a new volume

presented to me, somewhat incongruously, as a free gift thrown in with an oil change at a service station on the Bologna-Ancona motorway.

The new book is called *Artusi 2000*, and is written by two dieticians, Giuseppe Sangiorgi and Annamaria Toddi, who with a relentless lack of humour have been through the master's recipes one by one, criticising them for their excessive richness, fat imbalances and high cholesterol content.

Each dish is broken down into food groups and calorie counts, or, in the authors'

own phrase, into "dietetic-nutritional data". Charts show how quickly you can expect to keel over from cardiac arrest after munching your way through the more extravagant menus.

The authors have taken it upon themselves to censor certain ingredients ("We don't advise you to add the pork crackling, and in fact we haven't included it in our breakdowns"). Readers are urged to skim the fat off the top of stocks and stews, and reminded that those thrushes and other small birds Artusi delights in are protected species.

Have the authors missed the point? Yes. But is this a sign of the times? Regrettably, it must be. For years, Italy escaped the diet obsessions of other Western countries, largely because its traditional peasant cuisine, based on olive oil, plentiful fresh fruit and vegetables and only moderate quantities of meat, was fundamentally healthy. There are few obese men around and, despite the stereotypical image of the fat mamma, even fewer obese women.

The gamin look, so beloved of Paris catwalks and women's magazines in Britain and the United States, has never been popular in Italy; the ideal Italian woman has always been well-endowed up top and a little plump around the edges. Sophia Loren, even at 60, is still a potent sex symbol. *Artusi 2000* is one sign that all that may be about to change. Television advertisements are beginning to tout diet foods and weight-loss programmes. The latest issue of Italian *Marie-Claire* writes approvingly of a course which invites consenting adult women to throw away £400 so they can starve themselves on a diet of stale bread and water for a week. The *Cronaca della Sera*'s weekly colour supplement has declared that super-thin is in.

Most Italian women I know have been on diets recently (mozzarella, they warn in grave tones, stays in your mouth for 30 seconds but on your hips for ever).

Artusi 2000 lets its hair down every now and again. A recipe for tortelli oozing with butter, eggs and cheese is denounced as a calorific bomb. But then the po-faced authors add: "The deliciousness of these tortelli justifies, at least in part, a little lapse in the usual dietary rules. Just don't eat them too often."

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Today we print Token 6 and the second of our vouchers; Token 7 will be printed in tomorrow's paper. A final voucher will be printed on Sunday 29 September.

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If you are not sure where your nearest Café Rouge is, simply call 0171 478 8047 for details. Opening hours are Mon-Sat: 11am-11pm, Sun: 10am-10.30pm. For city branches, check with your local Café Rouge.

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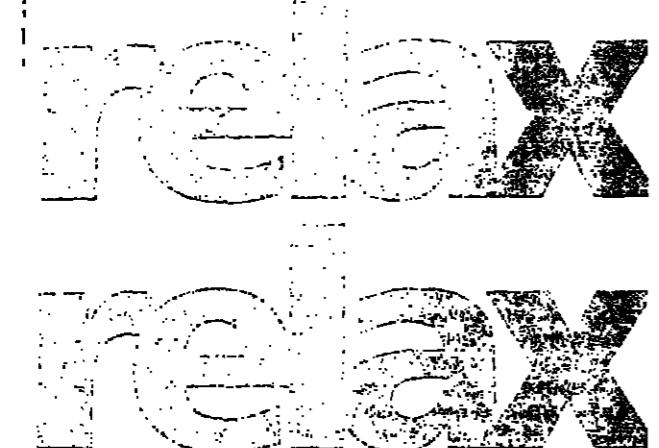
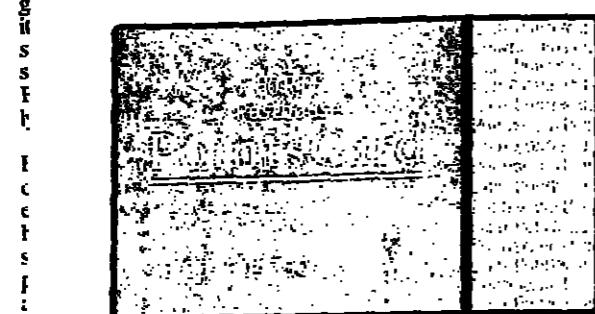
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• People were murdered brutally, with knives, machetes and clubs. You had to pay money if you wanted to be killed by a bullet

David Orr meets survivors of Rwanda's genocide as the first trials begin

TABA — In a grove of trees outside the village there are two rectangular plots, each measuring about 40ft by 15ft, their borders edged with plants. These are the mass graves in which some of the thousands of Taba residents slaughtered in the early days of the Rwandan genocide in 1994 are buried.

The man accused of having organised, and in many cases committed, these killings is Jean-Paul Akayesu, 43, the former mayor of Taba, a commune in the central Rwandan prefecture of Gitarama. His trial, the first to be held by the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, is due to begin today at Arusha, in northern Tanzania. If found guilty, he could face life imprisonment.

No one knows how many members of the Tutsi minority were butchered in and around Taba during the 100-day genocide — estimates are that at least 2,000 men, women and children died at the hands of the Interahamwe, Hutu militias. The real figure is probably much higher. Among those killed at

says Mr Karangwa, described in a newly published report of the London-based human rights agency African Rights as "the man Akayesu hunted more than any other".

Mr Karangwa said: "I saw Akayesu and his gang go to my house, looking for me. They looted and burned the house, then began searching the area. My brothers and I split up but Akayesu caught up with them. I saw him shoot my youngest brother dead. Some of his men killed the two left, slashing them with machetes."

A police inspector at the time of the genocide, Mr Karangwa, was pursued to a neighbouring commune by the Interahamwe. By May 1994, most Tutsis in Taba were dead.

"Many of my friends are buried here," Mr Karangwa says. "People were murdered brutally, with knives, machetes and clubs. You had to pay money if you wanted to be killed by a bullet. Akayesu did terrible things. He even took part in the killings. If he hadn't given the orders, no one, or hardly anyone, would have died here."

Mr Karangwa has made several statements to the tribunal investigators and hopes the UN trials in Tanzania will be properly conducted. But, like many Rwandans, he feels the guilty should have been tried in their own country. Found guilty by a Rwandan court, Akayesu would face the death penalty.

Only 21 people have been indicted by the UN Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda which, with the tribunal for former Yugoslavia, is the first to attempt to prosecute war crimes in an international forum since the end of the Second World War.

Of the 11 people under arrest, four are being held in Arusha, among them Akayesu who fled Rwanda in June 1994. He was arrested in Zambia last October and was indicted by the tribunal in February.

Akayesu has pleaded not guilty to genocide and crimes against humanity. His lawyers will no doubt attempt to present him as "small fish", one who was only following orders. Yet he held enormous power and in the anarchy of those months which preceded liberation by the Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels, Akayesu was a master of life and death. The fate of Taba's Tutsis was invariably the latter.

At the outset of the carnage in Taba were three brothers, Simon Mutujuma, Thaddeus Uwanyigira and Jean Chrysostome. One of the many charges brought against Akayesu is that he ordered and participated in the killings of these three men. Their brother, Ephrem Karangwa, says he witnessed the executions. "The genocide in this commune began on the evening of 18 April", says Mr Karangwa, now mayor of Taba. "That day Akayesu attended a meeting of all the mayors in the prefecture. When he got back to Taba he summoned members of his party [MDP] and went to the Interahamwe. Then the killings began".

First to die was Sylvere Karera, a local teacher. Although at least one of his murderers was handed over to the authorities, no one was arrested for that or any of the subsequent killings which took place while Akayesu held office. Survivors say Akayesu, a former teacher, took particular pleasure in targeting teachers and other educated people.

Akayesu is alleged then to have called a meeting urging the elimination of all Tutsis in the area. Reputedly he made incendiary speeches, urging the population to kill all *impesu* (cockroaches), even Tutsi foetuses in their mothers' womb. Survivors say he drew up death lists, distributed weapons and roused his henchmen. He is even said to have recruited children as look-outs, giving them whistles to blow whenever they saw a Tutsi.

"I was warned I was on a

blacklist of people to be killed."

They're underpaid, malnourished and close to mutiny — Lebed on Russia's army, page 18

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Fenced in: Inmates at Gikondo jail, in Kigali ... a handful of the 80,000 prisoners from the genocide still awaiting trial in Rwanda's overcrowded prisons

Photograph: Reuters

Rebels set to take Kabul

RAYMOND WHITAKER

Afghanistan's devastated capital, Kabul, was on the point of falling last night to the Taliban rebel movement, which has captured more than two-thirds of the country since emerging from religious schools in Pakistan two years ago.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government, which seized the city after the disintegration of the Communist regime in 1992, faced collapse. Fighting was reported on the eastern side of Kabul yesterday as the Taliban prepared to deliver the final blow in a series of lightning military successes.

Government jets based at Baghram, to the north of Kabul, screamed low over the city to bomb Taliban positions. The capital's 750,000 people, who have suffered almost continuous bombardment interspersed with street fighting in the past four years, retreated to their homes, leaving streets deserted.

The Taliban is an austere Islamic movement which has forced women to wear the veil, closed girls' schools, banned cinemas and gambling and staged public hangings and amputations in the areas under its control. It has denounced the corruption and brutality of the other Muslim factions which overthrew the Communists four years ago, but did not flinch at launching rocket and artillery attacks on civilians in Kabul when it seized the southern approaches to the city last year.

The government's main military commander, Ahmed Shah Massoud, managed to keep the Taliban forces at bay then, and yesterday his officers were vowing to repulse the latest attack. But Kabul's troops have been demoralised by the rebels' successes. Two weeks ago the movement captured Jalalabad, the main city in eastern Afghanistan, before seizing the strategic town of Sarobi. Exhausted government troops said yesterday that about 100 people were killed on both sides.

With the rebels attacking Kabul from three directions and fighting taking place within six miles of the presidential palace, United Nations staff reported chaotic scenes. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was preparing to send two planes to Kabul today to evacuate foreigners.

The Taliban's leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, called on troops loyal to Mr Rabbani to stop fighting because their leader was "preparing to flee", and offered an amnesty to anyone who came over to their side. Pakistan has repeatedly denied claims that it is behind the movement.

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Inquiry begins into guns for cocaine allegation

Black rage over CIA drug scam

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

The CIA is again on the defensive. America's politicians are uneasy, and the country's black community is in uproar over allegations that the intelligence agency was involved in a cocaine-trafficking scheme in Los Angeles in the 1980s, to help finance the CIA-supported Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

The thrust of the charges is not new, but the sheer detail and documentation contained in a ground-breaking exposé by the *San Jose Mercury News* last month are. Bombed by demands from black leaders and senior California politicians, the CIA and the Justice Department have been forced to begin investigations into an affair which, if confirmed, would saddle the agency with at least partial responsibility for starting the crack cocaine epidemic which ravages ghetto America to this day.

According to the *Mercury News*, two Nicaraguan cocaine dealers, Daniel Blandon and Norwin Meneses, with the help of CIA agents, smuggled large quantities of cocaine into the US, much of which was sold to a Los Angeles crack dealer called "Freeway" Rick Ross,

who distributed it to street gangs like the Crips and Bloods. Proceeds are said to have been used to finance Nicaragua's right-wing Contra movement, which was strongly supported by the Reagan/Bush administration in an attempt to unseat the Sandinista leadership.

Officially the charges have been categorically denied, and John Deutch, the CIA director, says an internal probe several years ago cleared his agency of involvement. But the *Mercury News* claims local investigations into the LA drug ring were impeded by other federal agencies, and this week a former DEA official declared he had evidence that the Contras were indeed smuggling cocaine to finance arms purchases.

The official, Celino Castillo, says he told the DEA of Contra drug flights in 1985 and 1986, but was informed by superiors that the flights were approved by the White House.

Black leaders have reacted with bitterness and outrage. A string of protest rallies led on Monday to the arrest of the head of the predominantly black Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the entertainer Dick Gregory for staging an illegal demonstration outside DEA headquarters.

Most striking though, has been the sense of victimisation that the reports have fuelled throughout black America, and the new lease of life for conspiracy theories – heavily promulgated on the Internet – that crack was introduced as part of deliberate attack on poor inner-city neighbourhoods, carried out by a white government. Such suspicions have been around for years; the evidence accumulated by the *Mercury News* makes them even harder to disbelieve entirely.

Even if they are ultimately shown to be unfounded, the short-term political ramifications could affect the election. Ostensibly, the loser is Bob Dole, who has sought to revive his *floundering candidacy* by pointing to a surge in teenage drug use since President Bill Clinton took office. Now he must cope with claims that a Republican administration was actually involved in drug-dealing.

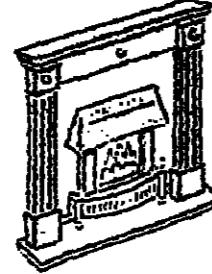
But Mr Clinton has little reason to gloat. The allegations have much in common with the saga of the *Mena air base* in western Arkansas, through which, if Mr Clinton's foes are to be believed, the CIA and the Contras smuggled drugs into the US with the connivance of the state's then governor.



Mother Teresa is transported yesterday from Woodlands Nursing home in Calcutta, where she was admitted after a fall, to Bellevue Clinic for further tests. Photograph: AFP



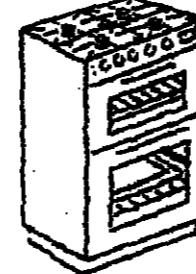
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significant shorts

10 die in air crash off Netherlands

At least 10 people were killed when a Dakota aircraft crashed into the North Sea yesterday. The coastguard said a DC-3 propeller-powered Dakota aircraft carrying 35 passengers had crashed into the North Sea 15 km (10 miles) north-east of the northern Dutch town of Den Helder.

Reuter - Amsterdam

South Korean 'spied on US'

A US Navy civilian intelligence analyst was charged with passing more than two dozen secret documents to South Korea, a US ally.

South Korean native Robert Chaegon Kim, of Sterling, Virginia, handed over information classified "secret" and "top secret", to Back Dong-il, a naval attaché for the

South Korean government, an affidavit released in US District Court said.

A Presidential spokesman, Mike McCurry, said: "Relations between the United States and the Republic of Korea are strong and of the nature

that they can endure any alleged wrongdoing by an individual."

AP - Alexandria

Nato holds steady course with Russia

With President Boris Yeltsin gravely ill, Western allies agreed it is essential for Nato to remain "predictable" so as not to play into the hands of its opponents. Nato defence ministers considered the possibility of Mr Yeltsin not serving out his second term and the consequences of that for Nato's already sensitive relations with Russia. One official said the US Defense Secretary, William Perry, and his Nato colleagues were keen not to provide ammunition to Yeltsin opponents who want Russia to be tougher on Nato and its plans to take in East European nations in the years ahead.

AP - Bergen

Suu Kyi 'to be charged soon'

A state-run newspaper said Burma's military government will soon charge

democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi with political

crimes. Ms Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has already spent six years under house arrest for her role in leading Burma's democracy movement.

The military recently said she has been aiding exiled dissident groups in a plot to topple the government. "In the not too distant future she will be accused as a political criminal," the *New Light of Myanmar* said. AP - Rangoon

Army moves on Tigers

Sri Lankan troops have killed or wounded more than 500 Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the first three days of a fresh offensive against the rebels' northern stronghold, a military spokesman said.

"The aim of this operation is to draw and kill as many terrorists as possible."

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said.

Reuter - Colombo

Algeria adopts English

Algeria, a former French colony, has ordered its schools to begin teaching English instead of French as the top foreign language.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia's edict is effective immediately for the 1996-97 school year, although it mainly affects university students.

Arabic is Algeria's official language. AP - Algiers

Police shoot at protesters

Police in Armenia fired at demonstrators rallying for a third day to protest against election results giving President Levon Ter-Petrosyan five more years in office.

Thousands of Armenians broke through a fence around parliament and police fired shots to disperse them. Protesters, who had surrounded parliament as opposition leader, Vazgen Sargsyan, held talks with election officials, ran for cover when riot police marched on them shooting into the air. Reuter - Yerevan

No refuge for wounded elk

Police shot dead an elk which had wandered into an empty fourth-floor flat, terrifying residents. The elk took refuge in the flat after being wounded by hunters in a nearby forest. Police tried to drag the beast out of the flat but when that failed they tried to find a specialist to tranquillise the elk. Unable to find one, they finally shot it dead. AP - Vilnius

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Workfare is fair, according to a majority of taxpayers. Why shouldn't the unemployed, especially the long-term unemployed, be obliged to do something useful in return for their benefits? The Conservative Party clearly agrees. It plans to include proposals for workfare in its election manifesto.

But we should tread carefully. Well executed, workfare can be effective and worthwhile. The principle that those who receive community support incur obligations is right. If support for the unemployed includes real opportunities to train and improve their chances of getting jobs, then the state can reasonably insist that they should take up one of these options in return for financial support. Badly executed, however, workfare could wind up wasting taxpayers' money, and accentuating the demoralisation and frustration already felt among unemployed people. That, in turn, would undermine public faith in the ability of government to lift people out of the cycle of decline that so often accompanies long periods out of work. There is a fine line between workfare that works and is genuinely fair, and workfare that is disastrous and morally wrong. As yet we cannot tell on which side the Conservatives' new proposals would fall – but we can set out the principles that their proposals, as well as those emerging from New Labour, should be measured against.

For decades the very mention of "workfare" has sent shivers down liberal spines. We imagine chain gangs of miserable men, shoulders bowed, swinging pick-axes pointlessly against rocks. Or we think of bored youths pulling bicycles out of deserted canals, only for their mates to chuck them back in again at the weekend. Workfare, we fear, is punishing those who already struggle to find work by sentencing them to futile labour on pain of penury.

Such qualms are justified. Penalising people for something that is not their fault will not improve anyone's lot. However, insisting that the unemployed fulfil certain conditions in exchange for benefits does not necessarily involve demeaning punishment. In fact it could be the establishment of an honourable reciprocal relationship between the Government and the unemployed. Allowing people to take from society indefinitely without demanding anything in return is to fail to respect them as citizens, and to treat them as helpless victims. Many of the unemployed are desperate to do something useful, and would be reassured to feel they were earning the giro they get at the end of each week.

The critical question is how much we can reasonably demand of the unemployed in return for their weekly benefit. Forcing them to do the grubby jobs, the boring, meaningless ones that no one else will do, may simply reinforce

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the slide in their self-esteem, and then in their future employability. Nor is it reasonable to demand that the unemployed waste their time in meaningless activity, just to prove that they are not lazy or fraudulent.

The fact that workfare would cut down on fraud and encourage those who are merely lazy to get jobs is a welcome bonus. But it is insufficient justification for the programme.

However, a well designed workfare programme could provide the long-term unemployed with exactly the kind of help they need to get back into work. If the Conservatives are proposing

real help to make the unemployed more employable, they will be justified in demanding that the unemployed participate in exchange for continued financial support. The longer people are out of work, the harder it becomes for them to find new jobs – perhaps because they are unskilled, perhaps because they have become stigmatised by unemployment, and perhaps because they have become dejected and detached from the world of work.

In such circumstances, government intervention may be essential to give them a chance of getting a job. A good welfare programme would help the

unskilled train, and help the long-term unemployed re-establish a working routine through high-quality work placements or through wage subsidies for jobs in the private sector. Pilot schemes operated by government and the voluntary sector across the country have proven promising in levering the long-term unemployed back to work.

If the Conservatives have really embraced these principles, the turnaround in their approach to unemployment is starting. It means they have acknowledged that the market alone cannot deliver the jobs that the unemployed need. The risk, however, is that the Government's commitment to the welfare of the long-term unemployed is half-hearted. Practising workfare properly will prove expensive.

If this is a gimmick to prove tough on fraudsters and slackers, and to cut the numbers on the dole, it will backfire. Make-work schemes that fail to make the unemployed more employable are not only a waste of time; they cruelly raise hopes and then dash them. The unemployed know that their work is under-valued, and so they become even more demoralised. Whatever the next government decides to do about the long-term unemployed, the stakes are high. Workfare in whatever form will not only affect the welfare of those on the dole; it also holds the potential to legitimise or undermine public support for the welfare state.

If taxpayers can be convinced that those on the dole are striving and being encouraged to find work, they will be much happier about funding all those benefits. But if, instead, a future government goes in for another round of youth training schemes and community programmes that fritter public money and stoke up frustration, the Government would risk undermining public support for state intervention even further. If we are going to do it, we had better do it well.

Girth breeds growth

Our Rome correspondent reports today that Italy is succumbing to Anglo-Saxon concern about body-weight. The movement is of a piece with Italy's brave attempts at fiscal restraint, part of its effort to meet the Maastricht criteria for European Monetary Union. But is dieting necessarily associated with control of the public finances? Look at Chancellor Kohl, or our very own Chancellor Clarke and his not insubstantial shadow, Gordon Brown. Didn't we have more sense of Lawson substance in the old days, before he wasted away? At a tight moment in monetary affairs, we'd prefer a man of girth presiding over the books.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unique peril of engineered food crops

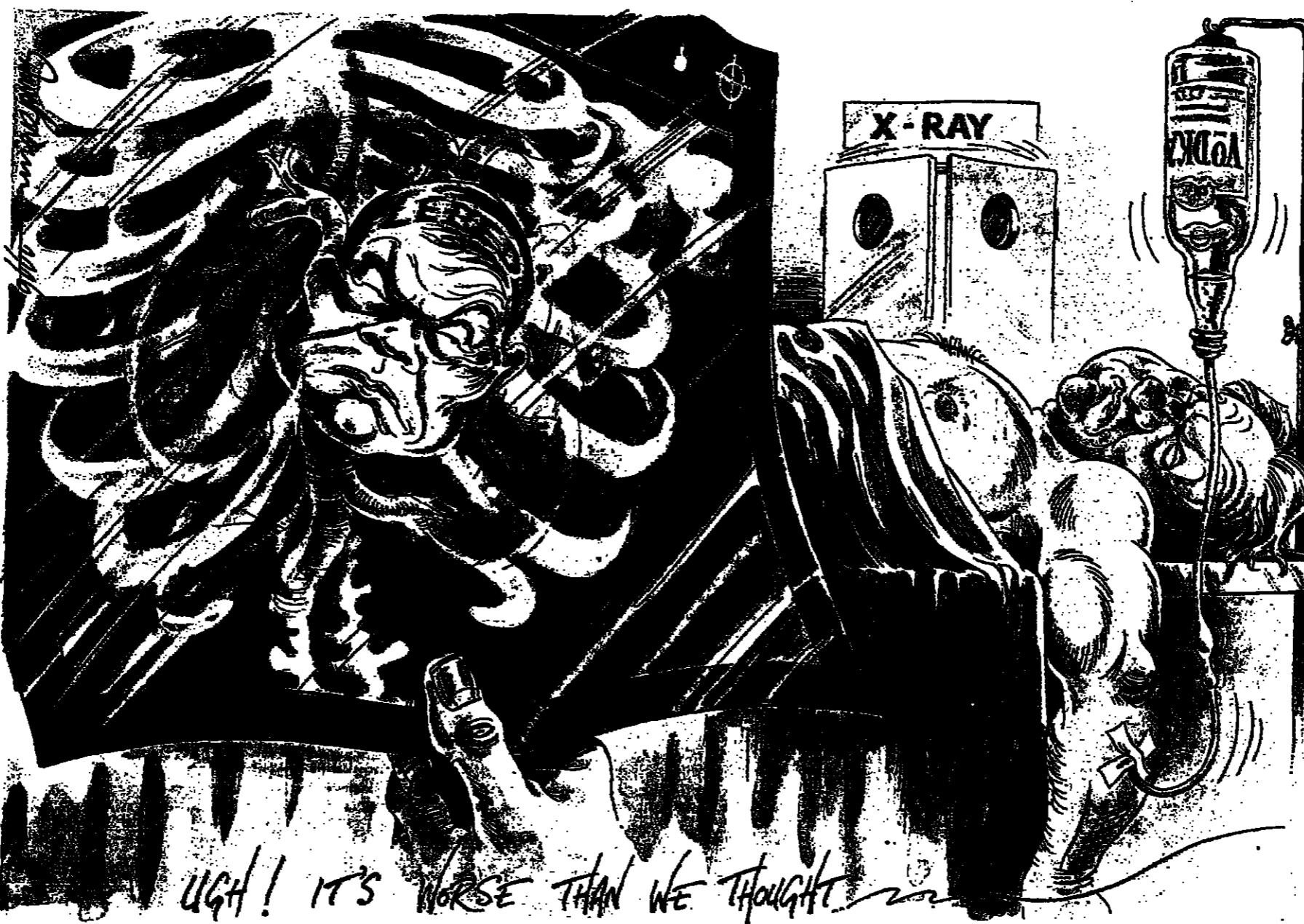
Sir: I write in an effort to dispel the common myth that the use of genetic engineering to produce new varieties of crops and farm animals is a natural extension of traditional cross-breeding methods (Suzanne Moore, 20 September; J Stocker, letter, 23 September).

In contrast to traditional methods, genetic engineering involves transfer of genetic material between totally unrelated organisms. Genes from viruses, bacteria, animals as well as unrelated plants have been engineered into crops. This circumvents natural species barriers and brings about combinations of genes that would never occur naturally.

This could be hailed simply as yet another great advance for modern agriculture if it wasn't that this is an imperfect technology with inherent dangers. The generation of genetically modified ("transgenic") plants and animals not only involves the use of artificial genetic combinations (such as parts of plant viruses linked to bacterial genes), but also its random splicing into the DNA of the host organism. This gives rise to an unpredictable component with regard to the functioning of both the host and introduced gene unit. (Normal gene control is preserved during cross-breeding of closely related species).

Furthermore, it is assumed that the protein product of the newly introduced gene will function in exactly the same way as it does in its native host, which frequently will not be the case. It is therefore not surprising to find that genetic engineering can result not only in reduced nutritional value but also in the unexpected production of novel toxins and allergens. It is the unpredictability of these outcomes that is most worrying. This argues strongly for general toxicity testing, perhaps something similar to that used for pharmaceuticals, and full labelling for all of these products. This will also allow the consumer to make an informed choice and truly "vote with their supermarket trolley" (leading article, 20 September).

Given that we have safe natural alternatives we should not be surprised to find that the Prince of Wales and others questioning the use of this technology, since once out in the field genetic pollution cannot be cleaned up and will be passed on to all future generations. Dr MICHAEL ANTONIOU, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology, London SE1



UGH! IT'S WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

who have been made eunuchs by others".

Before ordination we Catholic priests made an individual, carefully prepared decision to embrace lifelong celibacy which, like marriage, now has to be lived every day of life. The free choice we make each day is open to change, exactly like the free choice others make to stay married.

When things go wrong in marriage, relatives and friends first try to get the couple back together again. If they succeed, most people are happy, but sad for the would-be partner to a second marriage.

Similarly, the Church's first honest reaction to a celibacy problem is to get the priest back again. To describe this as "a system where betraying a woman is a forgivable weakness" – which no one would dare to say to modern marriage-menders – is patently unjust.

Similarly, Brown overstates his case when he describes an errant priest's bizarre behaviour as "betraying an institution" (the Church) which regards it as "an unforgivable offence". The Church always reflects the Lord's forgiveness.

Celibacy has always challenged accepted values, been found difficult to live and been criticised in every age. We choose it every day choose it in order to serve God and to be sensitive priests to the people we serve. Today that we do not believe what we "teach sexually" does not correspond with my experience of hundreds of celibate priests for well over 40 years.

HUGH LINDSAY
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
The writer was Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle 1975-1992

Sir: When a Catholic priest, or even bishop, is known to have consorted with a woman, all opprobrium is heaped on him. No one says that she is at least equally responsible.

Every Catholic woman should be aware that a priest is a man dedicated to God, and should maintain the same reserve that she would have in dealing with another woman's husband.

MARY A LYNCH
London W6

Morse first name revealed at bank

Sir: In response to your piece concerning the Christian name of Colin Dexter's Chief Inspector Morse ("Endeavour is answer to Morse code", 24 September), I wish to correct the writer as to the occasion when the clue to his first name was given.

The only clue given on television was in the episode entitled "Masonic Mysteries" (first broadcast on 24 January, 1990), when £99,999.99 was transferred into Morse's account with the West Sussex Savings Bank. The computer screen identifies the account as in the name of "E. Morse".

The clue was not given, as stated, on a bed chart in a hospital. Inspector Morse has not been hospitalised in any of the 30 televised episodes so far, and one hopes that this will remain the case in the 31st episode currently in production.

MATTHEW J HOWARD
Sturton by Stow, Lincolnshire

TECs' report to Shephard

Sir: The claim in your article "Youth trainers offer ministers political help" (24 September) that the TEC National Council has offered political help to the Government in return for budgetary support is false.

Your article quotes selectively from an early draft of a document which has not in fact been sent to the Secretary of State. The council has written recently to Mrs Shephard and the two key statements to which you object do not appear in the final correspondence. Nowhere in that letter does the council speak of "the failure of the school system", or of TECs seeking to "confound Opposition claims" or anything.

Nor does the council complain to the Secretary of State about previous budget levels – the letter merely argues that enrolments in TEC programmes are increasing and we wish to be sure that TECs can meet this growing demand.

TECs have quite properly communicated to the Secretary of State the latest performance figures on their programmes of work, and do also intend to see that those performance figures are widely disseminated to the public. This is not electoral strategy – it is simply that at this time of year the confirmed performances data for 1995-96 become available, and the first-quarter results for 1996-97 are known. If TECs are to be accountable to their communities – an issue *The Independent* supports

– reporting on their performance is a key part of this process.

CHRIS HUMPHRIES
Director of Policy and Strategy
TEC National Council
London SE1

Don't pull plug on electric cars

Sir: Lynn Sloman of Transport 2000 ("Dot wheels out its latest road rage shock", 23 September) is absolutely right that the Government's proposals for the introduction of unlicensed electric vehicles which may be used by teenagers or hammed drunk drivers should be recycled.

However, with some alteration these proposals could prove valuable for both the environment and road safety.

The case for speed-limited, low-impact "runarounds" has been well documented by Stephen Plowden and Meyer Hillman in *Speed control and Transport Policy* (PSI 1996). They argue that a "runaround" vehicle which has a maximum speed limit of 25-30 mph, and is lightweight and built with energy efficiency in mind, could be used by the many people who currently use vehicles for only around-town journeys.

Whilst the authors envisage drivers as being licensed and insured in the usual way, they see incentives such as lower road tax and running and purchase costs playing a valuable role. Such vehicles would help to reduce emissions and injury. Government

proposals on the unlicensed and uninsured use of electric vehicles on cycle paths by those 13 years and over are clearly suspect, but the prospect of low-impact, low-speed vehicles replacing those which make a misery of our public spaces does deserve some consideration.

SIMON BANNISTER
London N16

Gate to Britain is plain scruffy

Sir: In retirement I often take a stroll around central London. This recently included a visit to Waterloo station – the new point of entry for continental visitors.

It always has been scruffy outside, but I now find it worse than ever. As well as having to avoid traffic, particularly when coming out of the main exit, the visitor is confronted with a maze of graffiti-strewn tunnels and, at present, what appears to be the smell of sewage work.

I feel thoroughly embarrassed for any Eurostar visitors.

R JONES
Brentwood, Essex

Young Cary
Sir: I am surprised to see your reviewer Christopher Bray ("Educating Archie", 21 September) still accepting that nonsense about Cary Grant being born "to a poor working-class household". The area of Bristol in which he was born in 1904 was at that time a respectable middle-class area. Biographers publish photos of him as a child which certainly do not reveal poverty – eg. in fancy dress, which is not a sign of poverty in pre-1914 England. The school from which he was expelled was a fee-paying one. Once again Hollywood hype proves more interesting than the truth.

S J WHITE
Patchway, Avon

Elderly women in poverty

Sir: John Rentoul is right (report, 23 September). Pensions policy is a key issue for conference debate.

We have to ensure that everyone is able to build a decent, secure second-tier pension that will float them off poverty in old age. That will take time to come through. But, and this is too easily overlooked, we must address now: 700,000 pensioners, most of them women, are living in deep poverty.

Because they are elderly, because they are women, because they are retired, they have become invisible. Yet they have no private pension, no Serps, no savings, no rights to earmarking or pension-splitting, nothing. They fall, on average, £14 a week below the poverty line. How do they survive? By turning off the heating, by not eating properly, by never going out.

Our proposals to deliver a pension entitlement to our poorest pensioners must be our highest priority. We owe it to them, in every sense.

PATRICIA HOLLIS
(Baroness Hollis of Heigham)
Labour Social Security
Spokesperson
House of Lords
London SW1

2 16 essay

I t is 25 years after the founding of Greenpeace as a direct action group, its contemporary campaigners proclaim they are into solutions and dialogue – or are they?

Yesterday, more than 100 of the country's leading firms sent senior people to a conference organised by Greenpeace. The event was held in a Marriott hotel off Oxford Street, and with tickets at £440.00 a throw, the executives from such traditional adversaries of Greenpeace as Shell, ICI and Dow Chemical were responding to an invitation that the organisers hoped – and implied – they couldn't refuse.

Greenpeace has always been brilliant at being rugged, but also at being chic and glamorous. Courage and charisma have been its hallmarks. It is



Greenpeace, please grow up!

Twenty-five years after the founding of Greenpeace as a direct action group, its contemporary

now adding a degree of corporate savvy, in a Branson or a Roodick sort of way. "Forewarned is forearmed," said the flyer, as flyers for management conferences will. But Greenpeace's silky come-on had an element of blackmail – greenmail, anyway – about it.

Privately, several delegates said they had not really come in the hope of learning what bits of the corporate world Greenpeace would attack next. (although they were told that the oil industry's planned development off Shetland would be a target). From the floor, delegates obviously wanting the promised dialogue repeatedly asked whether Greenpeace really would discuss the details of its objections to various industries. They were parried with an ease that has 25 years experience behind it.

The message was that Greenpeace could not usefully rely solely on saying, "The public wants solutions. Greenpeace in Germany had already

big is happening to the organisation. And the industry types gathered to hear it from the horse's mouth.

The genesis of the new Greenpeace is quite recent. In the early Nineties, the group commissioned Philip Gould, image-maker to New Labour, to assess what a radical campaign group should look like as it approached its quarter century (and, they might have added, after half a century at least of vigorous action by officialdom to clean up the environment). Beware, wrote Gould, that your extremism will condemn you to the fringes of the national debate, while any move from radicalism risks alienating your core supporters.

The message was that Greenpeace could not usefully rely solely on saying, "The public wants solutions. Greenpeace in Germany had already

and yet, something quite

encouraged a formerly East German plant to offer fridges in which the notoriously ozone-damaging CFCs were replaced by relatively benign hydrocarbon gases, such as butane and propane. It is largely forgotten that CFCs were designed as a non-explosive alternative to inflammable hydrocarbons, just as it is forgotten that domestic fridges never went their CFCs. Nor does it much matter: hydrocarbon fridges can be made to work very well and have since begun to catch on with the rest of the industry.

Greenpeace feels able to claim much of the credit of shaming mainstream manufacturers. British fridge manufacturers happily concede that Greenpeace was useful in encouraging the switch, though in private they note that since CFCs were about to be banned, as were some of the alternatives, the result would have been the same with or without the Greenpeace initiative.

It is one of the odd features of Greenpeace's relationship with businesses that firms, at least for now, allow the campaigners their triumphalism, while executives queue up to munch humble pie. The executives appear to hope that extending flow of mostly unreciprocated courtesies to their old adversary may somehow civilise the campaigners.

They should beware, however. Chris Rose, the campaigns director, probably the most intel-

ligent hands-on environmentalist in the country, has for a year or so been talking about "enforced solutions". The group could be positive, but remain vigorous. As the flyer for yesterday's conference rhetorically asked, "Why does Greenpeace believe that solutions campaigning can be more confrontational than blocking your pipeline or disrupting your AGM?"

The answer, Rose said yesterday, is that industry fears losing its markets even more than having its pipes blocked. Greenpeace believes that it can still be seen to be the repository of forceful virtue, bouncing clumsy industry out of its self-seeking complacency. It can, it hopes, remain – or at least seem – radical. For years, industry and politicians wasted energy in pursuing the idea that this must be a left-wing group. That wasn't it at all: Greenpeace is committed to the chivalric defence of nature in the face of industrial rape. Its extraordinary appeal depends on its knightly courage and even innocence.

But it also depends on being highly selective of facts, as well as of targets. For years, most scientists involved with environmental issues, and the overwhelming majority of legislators and businesses, thought Greenpeace's handling of evidence was at least cavalier. Green-

peace merely responded: "They would, wouldn't they?"

The group now faces a more severe test. One of the founding fathers of British environmentalism is Richard Sandbrook, who was crucial to the formation of Friends of the Earth in England 25 years ago.

Moving on, in 1975, to develop the ideas of Barbara Ward, an

Economist writer, Sandbrook became director of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which tries to work out how human development needs can be fulfilled alongside environmental well-being.

Until now deliberately low-key, and prone to a sort of green political correctness, the IIED has recently completed the first all-embracing assessment of the paper industry – from forest to waste bin. It is a ground-breaking piece of work of considerable importance because it asserts that many deeply-held green ideas are plain wrong.

The study was paid for by the paper industry, but the IIED had far more to lose by being proved shallow or misinformed than it did by losing a corporate client. So the report carries conviction when it endorses plantation forestry; when it insists that no one has made a convincing case against the use of chlorine in paper bleaching; and when it claims that recycling paper often will not be the best environmental option.

It is great fun, which few environmentalists manage to be. But his message is serious. Poor people in poor countries need paper now, and will need a lot more as they get hold of the right to read and the right to write. Purism doesn't much

help them, especially as its main effect is to raise prices.

There is an intellectual, or at any rate a cultural, point to be made, too. Sandbrook has doubts about Greenpeace's proclaimed desire for dialogue – a declared, if unrealised, aim of yesterday's event. The real world, he suggests, wrestles with such facts as it can garner, and works its trade-offs between the competing desires to get and spend, and to keep nature pristine. Greenpeace's moral triumphalism, and (Sandbrook notes wryly) its market niche, depend on an intellectual virginity that a crueler person might risk calling a vacuum.

There is, to be sure, a new wave of thinking that aims to come to rescue of the likes of Greenpeace. At Lancaster University, Robin Grove-White, an erstwhile TV satire writer and director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England in the Eighties, is combining a board membership of Greenpeace with the refinement of a new line of argument which the EU, among others, is funding. Sometimes called Post Normal Science, this suggests that reductionist science (that is, the sort everyone's been doing since man first elevated himself above the apes) is deeply flawed when it comes to the environment.

He told yesterday's conference that "official" science fails to take account of people's deeply felt values; and that failure has led to scientific endorsement for the eating of beef while BSE raged, and the idea of dumping the Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Grove-White is very bright and very serious, and his work may help policymakers to handle animal rights, or roads protests, and their non-negotiable agenda. What's less clear is whether there is anything really wrong with the science which has so successfully made us rich and mostly rather safe.

Meantime, Greenpeace has yet to deal with a real difficulty at the heart of its campaigning. For years, it has inveigled against industry and been popular as it did so. Now that it is dealing in solutions, its campaigners will soon have to understand that industry does what its customers want.

Greenpeace Germany last month launched the design for a low-energy car. The car industry said the car was interesting but not revolutionary. Anyon could have knocked one up. It was not a world capitalist conspiracy that kept such a car off the road, but consumer indifference.

In short, Greenpeace's solution option may prove more challenging for the campaigners than for the businessmen it has harassed and harangued. Supporters may like the group less when it proclaims that it is the customer as much as the capitalist that fails the environment. And Greenpeace may find that one cannot talk about solutions and dialogue without occasionally listening to people who make things.

Greenpeace, at 25, may at last have lost its virginity.

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THE INDEPENDENT

If they love it in Berne, it's time for a rethink



Miles Kington

I think it is in Madagascar that the country people periodically dig up their dead and involve them in daily life for a while, before reinterring them. They have the same idea in this country, which is why *Punch* magazine has come back from the dead for a time. But the people who have the idea most often are those old folk at the BBC. They disinter old Hancock Half Hours or old panel game ideas, shake off the earth and pebbles sticking to them, and put them back on prime time radio or TV, which explains

why *Call My Bluff* is back on our screens at lunchtime during the week and why SJ Perelman is on Radio 4 at the hallowed 8.40am spot, and why Gerry Anderson is back in *Gerry's Bar*...

I switched on my TV at lunchtime the other day just to convince myself that *Call My Bluff* was really back again, and there it was, twinkling away at Pebble Mill with Alan Coren and Sandi Toksvig playing the parts of team captains and the random collection of maladroit and verbose semi-celebrities being played by a random collection of maladroit and verbose semi-celebrities.

I almost said, with Alan Coren and Sandi Toksvig playing the parts of Frank Muir and Patrick Campbell, but that would be unfair. For a start, nobody could replace those two. For a second tip, Coren and Toksvig are their own people, and do things differently – they obviously have a good rapport, which they use to be pleasantly rude to each other, when they would clearly much rather be rude to some of the long-winded guests on either side of them.

The odd thing about *Call*

My Bluff is that it doesn't do the one thing that you would think it might do, and that is to spread the knowledge of obscure and arcane words. Not one word has ever been reintroduced to English parlance by *Call My Bluff*. Once, when I was on the programme in the old days, I asked the long-time chairman Robert Robinson if he had ever adopted any of the words that passed through the programme, and taken them home for further use and enjoyment.

"Not a single one," he said tersely. I myself can only remember one word ever used on TV's *Call My Bluff*, and that was a word I knew already. I was on Frank Muir's team and we were given, by the opposition, three different definitions of the word "plaster".

In English this is an extremely rare word connected with horse dressage. In French, however, it is quite a common word meaning "to rear up", of a horse, which I had taken in at French A-level time, so, of course, I only had to pick the one definition with an equine bias and I was the happy winner of a point. The odd thing about *Call*

what I couldn't do was actually say, "Oh, yes, I know that," which would make me look unbearably smug and superior, so I had to go through the charade of pretending not to know and then guessing accurately, and then looking amazed and pleased that I had guessed right.

Still, it is odd to see the programme back at all. I can't remember exactly when *Call My Bluff* first died, but I was around at the time because I can remember the then producer, Johnny Downes, having to come to terms with the death of his baby.

"I don't want to leave the BBC without getting something else up and running, Miles," he told me one day. "Something to leave behind me, you know. If I come across something worth trying, would you like to get involved?" Well, you don't say no to someone's dying wish, so I said yes, which is how I became involved in a new TV panel game based on Scrabble, which was already well established in Switzerland. It was to be chaired by me. And most of the programme passed in silence.

*Tomorrow – we consider the revival value of SJ Perelman, Gerry Anderson and *Punch* magazine. Anything in fact, rather than talk about part*

diary

I aimed at
their bodies.
'Eat lead,'
I cried



john
walsh

I spent the other weekend at a house party in rural Nottinghamshire. heartbreakingly beautiful women, wet dogs, badminton lawns, which unfolded you in a soft embrace, east wing, west wing. Scarlati on the spinet, mauve cocktail cigarettes, shiny mahogany commode in the 14th bedroom and scrambled eggs à la Escoffier in the silver chafing dish. It was bliss in a specifically English way. And over the two-and-a-half days I turned into a psychopath.

On the first evening, as I went to retrieve something from the car, I spied an alarming figure emerging through the trees. It was our host, a mild-mannered philosopher, the gentlest chap you could meet, and he carried a gun - a .22 rifle with telescopic sight, night-beam and silencer. A sniper's gun, a ghastly, violent object whose sole purpose was the imminent dispatch of living things. He had, he said, been shooting rabbits which were vermin. Rupert, I said, I'm appalled. How could you - a humanist, a neo-Platonist, even contemplate...?

So we argued awhile about the ethics of firearms; he said banning handguns would solve the problem; rifles didn't count) and went to dinner. Lots of Château Lynch-Bages '68, port, odorous cheeses, coffee in the drawing room and Andrew said: "It's midnight. Coming for a stroll? We could take the rifle if that's all right with you..." Grudgingly I joined in, but purely as the voice of liberal-humanist decency. I represented the Rabbinist tendency. It was only there to see fair play.

It all changed in 15 minutes. Not 200 yards across the greenward, I said, "Let me have a look at that," and was suddenly clutching the noiseless firearm like Robert de Niro in his woolly hat. The telescopic sight focused in and out of small brown bodies, pinning jump-the-dates. The cross-hairs became clear. A hunter's moon obligingly fingered the trees. "Just round this corner," blared Rupert, "there's always stacks of the little buggers." I flinched myself against a tree, brought the sight to my eye, switched on the night-beam and swung round: "Eat lead, dear mother*****."

When the smoke cleared, I had gone so viciously exploding shells in a deadly silent space 128 rabbits, ringed around a gate, a "Keep Out" sign. A Dutch barn (at least that's what), seat a cloud of smoke like an *Independent Day* shadow over the whole county, woken all the slumbering brigadiers of Nottingham and lost all credibility with Friends of the Earth. I fled, stricken with remorse. Yesterday I was St Francis, now I was the greengobbler in *Desperado*. What was happening to me?

I got worse. A week later I was in Hastings on a lonely seaside prom. My son, who is five, said he wanted to look at a lovely toy and drew him a shop down the road. At, bless him. And there was this little toy shop.

The ugly truth that stalks our sexual fantasies

My Stalker Hell by Pammi Girl", says *The Sun's* headline. Beneath is a picture of "lovely Perry Southall, 20" wearing a PVC miniskirt and boots. Ms Southall, it ought to be explained, is Pammi Girl, as far as *The Sun* is concerned, because of her striking resemblance to Pamela Anderson, an actress. She was stalked for eight months by a man who was finally convicted on two assault charges - the jury accepted that she had been psychologically scarred.

Meanwhile, Doreen Holt told delegates at the Liberal Democratic conference of the way her daughter's life had been devastated by a man who stalked her for five years. Moved by the speech, the conference voted overwhelmingly to make stalking a criminal offence. The judge at the trial of Clarence Morris, the stalker of Ms Southall, also called for legislation.

Plus, of course, there have been some high-profile Hollywood cases of stalkers-to-the-stars. One way or another, stalking appears to have crept furiously on to *The Agenda*.

Legally, one can see the point. Being obsessively stalked must be

appalling and anybody who causes such anxiety and misery ought, on the face of it, to be prosecutable. But this is tricky. At what point would a certain pattern of behaviour become stalking? And what is wrong with stalking if no threats are made and no harm is done? Well, obviously quite a lot, but once you create offences defined by the subjective response of the victim, it becomes difficult to know either where to stop, or what would constitute evidence. And, after all, Clarence Morris was convicted, so the present law seems to be fairly usable.

But the current fascination with stalking is not really about the law; it is about totems and taboos. The big totem is sex. The big taboo is bad sex. Perry Southall, because of her resemblance to tabloid heroine, good sex. Clarence Morris, because he turned up at the dental surgery where she worked wearing Y-fronts outside his trousers, is bad sex.

This distinction is crucial to the functioning of a society that thinks of itself as liberated but is, in fact, more elaborately enmeshed than ever. Sex sells things very successfully so there are big vested interests involved in promoting sex. Advertising, newspapers,



Bryan
Appleyard

television and films all now routinely use material that, 50 years ago, would have been regarded as hard pornography. And all of this sex is good, healthy and fun, an essential part of contemporary identity, because, if it weren't, it would not sell the cars, the newspapers, whatever.

But, liberated as all this may seem, it has to be held together by some highly puritanical injunctions. The tabloids, for example, will reserve the

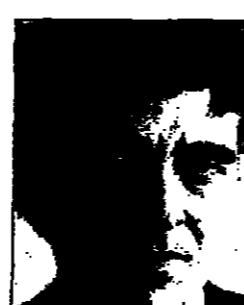
right to expose any sufficiently prominent adulterer, especially if there is anything "kinky" involved. Such a "love rat" or "pervert" is somehow deemed to offend against the totum of good sex, celebrated elsewhere in the paper by bare-breasted models and sex advice columns and features.

The glaring discontinuity arises from the attempt simultaneously to regard sex both as a simple appetite and as an emotional and moral force. The first decorates the culture, the second gives it something to talk about.

On the one hand there is the fantasy world of good, clean sex in which we all now live. The stalker is at a distance, looking, drawing constant attention to his victim as pure surface, a mere fantasy image. He provokes outrage because his presence implies that his victim can be reduced to a version of a media star. He excludes her from the communal sexual fantasy by threatening to make it real.

It is hard to imagine a neater image of the contemporary experience than this threatening confrontation between fantasy and reality. No wonder the stalker has become one of the anti-heroes of our time.

Major must seize the moment, or die



Donald Hurd has written the script on EMU. The PM has to deliver it

It would also prevent a stand-up cabinet row with hard-line Eurosceptics over what goes in the manifesto.

Major's principal defence so far has been that to decide the issue before the election would be to sacrifice the chance to influence the negotiations leading to monetary union. The more imminent the election, and therefore the establishment of EMU, the more his opponents will argue that such considerations have become irrelevant because there is less to influence. Ministerial Eurosceptics wilfully overestimate the electoral advantages of achieving their goal; and wilfully underestimate the divisions exposed by pursuing it.

But they haven't given up. Sir Nicholas Bousier, who attacked Kenneth Clarke on Tuesday, has some friends in high places, including Michael Howard, whom he would like to see lead the party when Major stands down. Howard knew nothing of Bousier's attack until it had happened, much less put him up to it. But the connection demonstrates that his constituency is powerful as well as numerous. In short if the left buckled, many of Major's trivials would evaporate.

But the left isn't going to buckle. Slowly, belatedly, the pro-European one-nation wing of the party is fighting back.

Douglas Hurd makes an unlikely backbench agitator, and never expected to be one. But be warned to his role yesterday, eloquently restating the case against ruling out a single currency - but also, for good measure, backing the Chancellor against strident calls for extravagant tax cuts.

But where he said it was more important than what he said. More than 100 Tory MPs and 30 ministers have supported yesterday's launch - in a Westminster club - of the broadly pro-European, one-national Conservative mainstream group. A fair sprinkling of both turned out yesterday to support an organisation that will remain active until the election. It would be fantasy to assume that more than a minority of these would go over the brink with the Chancellor. But it is equally fantasy to suggest that he would be on his own.

Clarke may regret the phrasing of his remarks last Sunday - but routine claims that he was misrepresented in the press have a hollow ring. He was trying to argue that it would be

cowardice to opt out of the first wave without fully considering the economic implications. And he first affirmed the need for Britain to do that at the Madrid summit last December. What's more, the current reading within the Treasury of the Maastricht treaty is that Britain may be able to join the first wave of EMU as late as 1999. If true, it fatally undermines the claim that those implications will all be clear by the election.

Clarke's resignation would be a disaster on the markets and for the Government, even if no ministers followed him - which some certainly would.

Michael Heseltine, Sir George Young, Sir Patrick Mayhew and John Gummer broadly agree with him. And even if they were persuaded to stay, Alastair Burt, Tim Eggar and David Curry would be among more junior ministers who would probably go. The Government would fall, perhaps within days.

It's now clear that one of the reasons why Major was determined to get a deal on BSE in Florence is that at least two backbenchers signalled that they were not going to stand for the policy of non-co-operation continuing. It's quite possible enough would abstain to ensure

the Government lost on a confidence vote. This is a momentous step, but one legitimised by the rebels who turned against the Government over Maastricht in 1993 when Major turned the issue into a confidence vote.

Logic, if not instinct, points Major towards only one course. Doing as the Eurosceptics demand is suicidal. But doing nothing won't work, either. Senior Tories now speak with a kind of apprehensive relish of the spectacle that the economic debate at Bournemouth in a fortnight could become as the right use it to force open the issue of ruling out EMU.

At the very minimum, Major has to restate yet again the policy of ruling nothing in and nothing out in his conference speech on the Friday. But if he is sensible he will do it before then, in such terms that every attack on the policy at the conference will be transformed into an attack on him. Constituency activists will not forgive any such disloyalty so close to an election. The Prime Minister needs to do it with such conviction that it closes the issue. Douglas Hurd produced the script yesterday. Now Major has to deliver it.

OUR SERIES ON THE PEOPLE JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE LATE NINETIES



THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT

Day nine

Mandelson's people

He may be loathed in the Commons, but his is the new face of politics.
By Peter Popham

Mandelson's prominence says a lot both about the present-day Labour Party and present-day British politics. Mandelson was the dramatic remedy the party came up to tackle the causes of 1983's crashing defeat. Sweeping through its stagnant press office like an elegant tornado, he quickly put the fear of God into Conservative counterparts. "Mention of Mandelson appears to

cast a respectful terror in the hearts of Tory strategists," one commentator observed, "much as the name Rommel gained a mythical status among Allied generals."

If he had left it at that, the party might have taken him to its bosom. But in 1987 it became clear that he planned to get as closely involved in the making of policy as he had been in its presentation; and that he was going to deploy his formidable presentation skills and his unrivalled, 24-hour-a-day dedication to getting his way.

For a man with no base in the party, it was a bold gamble. His influence owed everything to his intimacy with the leadership and with the media, and to the electricity - in terms of positive news coverage - which this enabled him to generate. But the gamble has paid off handsomely. Mandelson's power base may be fragile, and wholly dependent on Tony Blair not falling under a bus, but it is immense.

Of course he is not as isolated as his parliamentary enemies would like him to appear. His select circle of friends constitutes a microcosm of a particular sort of élite. He has a good relationship with Alastair Campbell, Blair's press officer. His closest friend is probably Phillip Gould, the man he coaxed away from a brilliant career in advertising to overhaul Labour's image. Gould's wife is Gail Rebuck, managing director of the publisher Harper-Collins who became a millionaire when given golden handcuffs by the company.

Other close friends and allies include John Birt, director general of the BBC; Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman; and Roger Liddle, a founder member of the SDP and co-author of Mandelson's book *The Blair Revolution*. Another intimate chum is Peter Ashby, his former flatmate, who is prominent as a lobbyist for the cause of full employment.

Mandelson's political work has been back-stage, but he himself is now quite famous: last week he was photographed at the Ministry of Sound disco's fifth birthday party, and the *Evening Standard* ran the picture next to Mick Jagger's, just as large.

Conclusion: politics today has become almost exclusively a love affair between politicians and the media.

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obituaries / gazette

Douglas Hyde

Douglas Hyde's Cold War best-seller *I Believed* told of an idiosyncratic personal odyssey, from Methodism through Communism to Roman Catholicism. Climaxing sensationally with Hyde's rejection of the Kremlin for the Vatican, this cautionary tale of 1951 brought instant fame and the endorsement of Cold Warriors from Joe McCarthy downwards.

The unwritten sequel was even more instructive, however, for Hyde was to abandon the role of professional anti-Communist 'through an unquenched desire for social justice that neither church, still less the likes of McCarthy, could accommodate. Disillusioned by increasing papal conservatism, he ended his life no longer a practising Catholic but renewed once more in his socialist faith.

Hyde's story began in a comfortable nonconformist Bristol home, his pious Liberal father having known Lloyd George in his heyday. Drawn at first towards the Methodist ministry, Hyde came to find its stifling provincial mores incompatible with his own burgeoning social millenarianism. Far more expansive and stimulating were the orators who came to speak on Bristol Downs, from Indian nationalists who engendered a lifelong internationalism, to militant Welsh miners like Lewis Jones, influenced by the recent General Strike. It was through Jones that Hyde was introduced to the Communist Party, which he joined in 1928 at the age of 17.

There can have been few more earnest recruits. Leaving his theological studies behind him, Hyde immersed himself in the canon of Marxism-Leninism in which he later became an accomplished tutor. It was the central claim of *I Believed* that this Leninist outlook allowed no matter what ruse or stratagem as best served the party cause. Undercover work in the ILP or Labour Party thus came as naturally to Hyde as the harnessing of liberal or progressive opinion to some party-led campaign or other. Not once did Hyde deny the tireless idealism of campaigns like that for Republican Spain, later recalled as "not only the most memorable and personally satisfying but the best part of my life".

Always, however, at the back of his own mind was a sense of revolutionary purpose that went beyond the immediate common task. That combination, of revolutionary ardour with Leninist *realpolitik*, no doubt explains the intensity of Hyde's revolution on concluding by 1948 that the final emancipatory

of a Douglas Hyde were less plausibly dismissed as those of a mere renegade.

Hyde himself, moreover, was by no means a convert to the right. He never accepted the grosser logic of McCarthyism and pointedly omitted in *I Believed*



Hyde: 'agnostic Christian'

goals of Communism had all but been lost sight of. The Stalinist clampdown in Eastern Europe provided the grimness of catalyst but the malaise went both deeper and further back than that.

At the time of his resignation, Hyde was news editor of the *Daily Worker*. He had joined the paper in 1940 and then overseen its preparations for illegal publication during an 18-month government ban in 1941-42. On the lifting of the ban, Hyde joined the remarkable editorial team which, in defiance of its limited journalistic experience, had the presumption to take on Britain's press barons and briefly raised the *Worker's* circulation to some 120,000. It was a period in which the paper enjoyed a wide sympathy and tacit support among its Fleet Street rivals.

Hyde recalled one particular alarming episode when an elaborate network of covert sympathisers, from the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express* and beyond, found themselves trapped with him in a lift after an air-raid disturbed their nocturnal deliberations. Such risks of exposure were afterwards avoided, but it was a mark of Hyde's total dependability that he could always be entrusted with such delicate responsibilities. No Communist, as Harry Pollitt would later ruefully remark, could have been further from any suspicion of dereliction.

Hyde's very public defection was thus inevitably taken by former comrades as a betrayal. For some that breach would never be healed, but others proved less unrelenting. Perhaps, with the shocks to Communist self-belief that began in 1956, the criticisms of a Douglas Hyde were less plausibly dismissed as those of a mere renegade.

Hyde's final years were ones of failing health borne with fortitude. More gods than one had failed him, but his courage and optimism never wavered.

I Believed's conversion was a triumph. From out of the ranks of Communist darkness came one whom our grace and truth had at last touched. His *I Believed* became a Catholic textbook.

In the 1950s he came to lecture at our college for would-be priests. He was hero-worshipped. A modest, unpretentious man, he was never happy on pedestals. Soon we became friends.

It was clear that Doug's passion was social and economic justice rather than religious orthodoxy. Justice had inspired him as a Communist and it inspired him equally as a Catholic Christian.

It was because he could not swallow the political selectivity of the present Pope, who has so often treated those supposed to be on the Left so harshly, that Doug moved away from official Catholicism. On his last hospital admission form he listed himself as an "agnostic Christian".

He was never agnostic or indifferent about injury done to others. His courage in spending, voluntarily, two and half years in Asian prisons working for the release of political detainees was astonishing. Thousands owe their freedom today to the unpublicised work which he undertook, at real risk to his life.

The hundreds of Christmas and birthday cards balancing on his Wimbledon mantelpiece every year were witness to his many friendships world-wide. Many came from ex-prisoners. Indeed Amnesty International owes its foundation (in 1961) in part to his example.

Literature, music, the wonders of his garden and the inquiries of our government were favourite themes for a man who knew how to speak clearly and to the point. Always his humour bubbled over and his eyes sparkled. Illnesses were brushed aside.

It was a delight to be with him a few years ago at a summer garden party for his birthday. His old comrades respected the way he had followed the star of his own conscience and were there in plenty. Phil Piratin, once one of only two Communist MPs, was at his side when I came to cutting the cake.

Douglas Hyde was an inspiration and one who really did love his neighbour as himself. A prophet as well no doubt, but one who knew how to laugh.

Douglas Arnold Hyde, journalist and political campaigner; born Worthing, Sussex 8 April 1911; married (three sons, one daughter); died Kingston upon Thames, Surrey 19 September 1996.

From that perspective Dou-

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Les Ballets Chiriaeff performing in 1956, the year after the troupe was formed

Photograph: André Le Coz / Lebrecht Collection

Ludmilla Chiriaeff

Ludmilla Chiriaeff was a handsome woman of noble mien with a stamina that was truly Russian. Creator of the Grands Ballets Canadiens in 1957, she was a leader who did much to establish a virile ballet in a country where – at the time – art was a rare commodity and ballet an unmentionable word. She must be placed alongside Gwendeth Lloyd of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Celia Franca of the Toronto Ballet as one of the most prominent pioneers of this epoch. Over two decades she built her company from scratch in French-speaking Montreal and developed it to world-class standards.

The distinguished Canadian ballet critic Michael Crabb wrote of her in 1982:

Ludmilla was and is a lady of vision and courage. At 58 she remains a stylish woman of great beauty with a personality wrapped in a slightly wistful almost tragic air. The sun entirely belies the tough core without which it is not clear she could never have created the virtuoso and expressive artistry involved in running a ballet company... Ludmilla Chiriaeff had to be a fighter and a survivor.

Born in Riga, Latvia, the daughter of a well-known Russian writer, Serge Corin, Ludmilla Chiriaeff spent her childhood in Berlin after the

family had fled from the Soviet regime. She studied ballet with Alexandra Nikolajeva, an ex-Bolshoi ballerina, and such was her progress that by 1936 she was dancing with Colonel de Bas's Ballet Russe.

Returning to Berlin to dance at the Stasi Oper, she performed and danced in the ballets of Mikhail Fokine and Léonide Massine, which formed the basis of her choreographic development. The Second World War checked her career as a dancer, but with the cessation of hostilities she went to Switzerland and became leading dancer and ballet mistress at the Lausanne Theatre. Dis-



Chiriaeff: total conviction

I met Chiriaeff at the Varna International Ballet competition in 1972. She was serving on the jury and some of her dancers won prizes. Later when her company was appearing at Sadler's Wells I met her several times and was impressed by her humanity, her beauty of soul and total conviction.

Chiriaeff always valued the importance of schooling as the basis of the company's style and after retirement from directing in 1974 she spent her energies developing the Académie de Danse which she had founded in 1957. That school became the Académie des Grands Ballets Canadiens in 1966 and eventually L'École Supérieur des Danseurs and, in 1984, L'École Supérieur de Danse de Québec.

Her last years were blighted by illness, but to the end she continued to take a keen interest in her school and in all things balletic. In 1993, she was one of six Canadians given a Governor General's Performing Arts Award for lifetime achievement.

John Gregory

Ludmilla Chiriaeff, dancer and choreographer; born Riga, Latvia 1924; married; died Montreal 23 September 1996.

Professor Jack Pepys



Pepys: clinical allergist

Jack Pepys was Professor of Clinical Immunology at the Brompton Hospital in London from 1967 to 1979 and the "father" of British clinical allergy. He was an outstanding clinical researcher who made substantial contributions to our understanding of allergic diseases.

His great gift was to unravel complex mechanisms in specific allergic processes. An association between farmer's lung and mouldy hay had been known since the 1930s but the specific cause eluded people and there was much debate as to whether the disease was allergic in nature. Pepys and co-workers discovered a specific cause (allergy to moulds) and developed a blood test for farmer's lung, which has remained routine in clinical practice ever since.

It became clear that there were many variants of this particular form of allergic lung disease (for which the term *extrinsic allergic alveolitis* was coined). Related conditions included bird breeder's (fancier's) lung and a similar allergic lung problem caused by inhaled pituitary snuff used in the treatment of diabetes insipidus.

Pepys and his team also described these diseases and their causes. He furthermore achieved international acclaim for

his work on allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis and allergic lung diseases caused by fungi. These complex conditions, which can be fatal if unrecognised, were found by Pepys and his team to have a basic immunological nature. This enabled them to explain the patterns of tissue destruction and develop further specific diagnostic tests. He also pioneered "experimental models" of provoked asthma and extrinsic allergic alveolitis in the clinical laboratory and in this way was able not only to unravel disease processes but also to explain the basis of the mode of action of various anti-allergic drugs.

He was born Jacob Pepys, in Johannesburg, in 1914. He obtained his MB ChB from the University of Witwatersrand in 1935 and remained in South Africa for the next 14 years working in general practice and having various affiliated academic appointments in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

It was during this time that he began his lifelong interest in allergy and allergic diseases. In 1948 he and his family moved to London. After appointments at the Institute of Diseases of the Chest (now the National Heart & Lung Institute), the research group was initially set up with support from the Medical Research Council. He was

appointed Reader in 1965 and Professor of Clinical Immunology in 1967.

Further landmark contributions were his studies on occupational asthma. He developed a series of simple inhalation tests which enabled a cause and effect relationship to be established between asthma and low molecular weight chemicals and other sensitising agents in the workplace. He published papers on platinum salts, isocyanates and colophony as occupational sensitising agents as classics of their time. Using serological tests he was able to set the scene for subsequent studies on the immunopathology of occupational asthma. This eventually led to occupational asthma's being recognised as a compensable industrial disease.

In 1971 Jack Pepys founded and was first editor of the journal *Clinical Allergy* (now *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*), which was to become one of the most popular journals in the field. The early issues contained the classic descriptions on the causes of occupational asthma. He was a prolific and clear writer, publishing over 200 scientific articles in national and international journals.

Pepys was a founder member and first Treasurer of the British Society for Immunology and Professor of Clinical Immunology and Clinical Immunobiology.

He was immensely popular with staff and students and a very large number of clinical investigators passed through his department, many of whom eventually took up senior appointments in the UK and worldwide.

As a lecturer he was lucid and concise. He loved to travel and had a busy national and international agenda. He was a kind and gentle man and a delightful raconteur with a great sense of fun. Equally he could be decisive and firm with colleagues and students. His total commitment and absorption in his work was with him to the end.

He is survived by his devoted wife Rhoda and his daughter Sandra (both gifted artists) and his son Mark, Professor of Immunological Medicine at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

A. R. Kay

Jacob Pepys, immunologist; born Johannesburg 15 May 1914; Professor of Clinical Immunology; Brompton Hospital, London 1967-79; married 1938 Rhoda Kessel (one son, one daughter); died London 9 September 1996.

Firstly led to her committing suicide.

Born into a poor family in Eluru in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in 1960, she was christened Vijayalakshmi but, at an early age, changed her name to Smitha. After *Vandi Chakkaram* ("The Wheel"), her first Tamil film in 1979, Smitha began calling herself "Silk" after the bar girl of the same name she played in the movie. Silk is also an anglicised word for "silken", used colloquially in parts of south India to mean an "endearing flirt with a touch of glamour", a sobriquet which suited her screen persona.

Smitha left school after the fourth standard determined to become a film star, and at the age of nine moved in with her aunt in Madras, the centre of southern India's booming film industry. Madras easily rivals Bollywood. India's film capital of Bombay, not only in the number of films it produces annually and its lavish studios, but also in the number of box-office hits it produces.

Then, after nearly 20 years of playing such roles, Smitha's career floundered and she moved, rather disastrously, into producing movies. Two of her Telugu films flopped recently in the box office while the third, released earlier this month, was also a failure. Smitha had borrowed heavily to make these films and this, combined with her unhappy personal life and alcohol dependency,

Nadu state on the strength of his acting career, was so all-encompassing that scores of Tamilians committed suicide by setting themselves on fire or jumping out of moving trains when he died in the mid-Eighties.

Similarly, N.T. Rama Rao, who invariably featured as a god in Telugu movies, was treated with ecclesiastical reverence by people in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh state and twice elected its chief minister.

Smitha too became a household name after Tamil films like *Moondram Pirai* ("Third night of the New Moon"), *Moondru Mugam* ("Three Faces") and *Kozhi Kuruthi* ("The Cook is Crowing"). Besides Tamil cinema she also featured in scores of Telugu, Malayalam and even mainstream Hindi films in Hollywood.

Smitha's personal life, however, contrasted sharply with her screen persona. She was deeply religious and like many pious Indians had her own little temple at home where she prayed several times a day.

Kuldip Singh

Vijayalakshmi ("Silk") Smitha, actress; born Eluru, Andhra Pradesh, south India 1960; died Madras 23 September 1996.

Lunches

Lloyd's Register

Mr Patrick O'Ferrall, Chairman, and Dr Tim Jones, Chief Executive, Lloyd's Register, were hosts of a luncheon held yesterday at Trinity House, London EC3. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Chadsley, was guest of honour.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: *Silence and Sound: Omega and Modernism*, 2.30pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Dr Paul Barlow, *Thomas Carlyle and the National Portrait in Victorian England*, 1.10pm.

Tate Gallery: Frances Brundrett, *The Health of the Bride by Stanhope Forbes*, 1pm.

British Museum: Scott McKendrick, *"Jason and the Golden Fleece": a mythical quest for every age?*, 1.15pm.

Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Revd Nigel Alcock, Rector, Much Hadham and Hinxworth (St Albans); to be also Canon

IMF calls on Clarke to bring down deficit

DIANE COYLE
 Washington

The Chancellor of the Exchequer needs to take "corrective measures" in November's Budget to get the Government's finances moving back towards balance by the end of the century, the International Monetary Fund warned yesterday.

The IMF, the world's financial policeman, predicts that the UK will be one of only five EU countries not to meet the Maastricht Treaty requirement of a government budget deficit of below 3 per cent of GDP in 1997. France and Germany will scrape under the wire, but it expects the UK, along with Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, to miss the target.

Michael Mussa, the IMF's director of research said: "The timetable for moving towards budget balance has slipped. It would be desirable to get it back on track."

Mr Mussa was careful to say Britain's public finances were not in such a weak state that dramatic tax increases or reductions in spending were needed. But he said: "It means

a modest correction to get back on the desirable path."

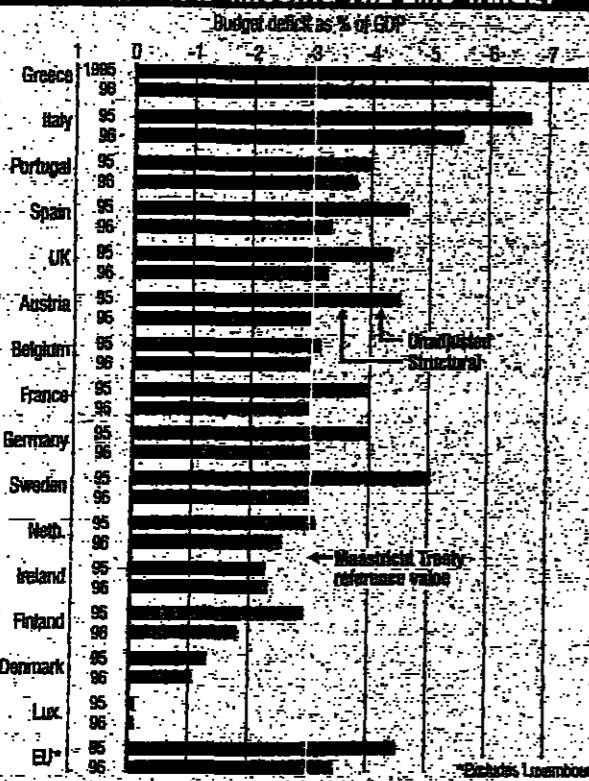
The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook said it was essential for European countries to continue making progress on cutting their budget deficits. Flemming Larsen, deputy-head of research, said the Continental countries must also focus on deregulating their labour markets.

"Without any significant further progress on structural reform, we would not expect European unemployment to be much below 8.5 per cent by the year 2000," he said.

Although admitting the danger that the Maastricht timetable could slow growth in Europe, he said there was no alternative. "Overall, consolidation has been associated with somewhat weaker recovery than might have otherwise been the case," he said.

If growth in Europe continued to be weaker than expected the IMF would become concerned that the Maastricht protocol had created a vicious circle of efforts to cut budget deficits reducing growth, which in turn increased the budget shortfall.

HITTING AND MISSING THE EMU TARGET



Comment, page 21

Housing: Builder stays cautious on prospects despite rising profits and volumes as improved market fails to help brick-maker

No boom on the way, warns buoyant Barratt

PATRICK TOOHER

Outside the South-east, Mr Eaton said the housing market had remained competitive but volumes were now beginning to move ahead, helped by incentives such as part-exchange deals. "Purchaser confidence is now returning," he added.

Barratt's comments came as it posted an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £52.1m in the year to June, at the top end of analysts' expectations. Shares in Barratt rose 6p to 274.5p.

"Barratt is the only national housebuilder to increase volume completions, pre-tax profits and earnings per share combined, despite very difficult conditions which continued in the UK housebuilding industry during the year," said Sir Lawrie Barratt, chairman.

Frank Eaton, Barratt's chief executive, noted that price rises in the South-east of England, where the housing market is strongest, were now tapering off after increases of up to 10 per cent last year over the last year.

Barratt expects to sell about 8,000 houses this year, putting it well on course to achieve its target of 11,000 completions by the year 2000. The group revealed that it had made a bid of £52m for housebuilder Admiral, which last week was bought by Bryant for £62m, including £58.8m in assumed debt.

However, Barratt - ranked number two behind Wimpey with a 5 per cent market share - remained sceptical about growing by acquisition in an industry that is rapidly consolidating.

"Shareholders can be assured we will not overpay to take on board problem house-building operations," Sir Lawrie said. Barratt also hit out at "costly delays" in the Government's planning policy, which was causing a shortage of development land and increasing pressure on house prices.

Investment Column, page 20

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Investment Column, page 20

ells
US
40m

COMMENT

The intermediaries will only get a fifth of the AEA shares they applied for. That, together with an undemanding prospective earnings multiple, should make the shares fly'

Taxpayers are still short-changed in sell-offs

Britain's experiment in privatisation is drawing to a close much as it began with a state-owned business sold off on the cheap and the investment community looking another gift horse squarely in the dentures.

Fourteen years ago, Amersham International, an obscure spin-off from the Atomic Energy Authority, first gave privatisation a bad name. The issue, surprise, surprise, was grotesquely underpriced, leading to massive over-subscription and a 37 per cent profit when dealings began for those lucky enough to have grabbed a slice of the action.

Today shares will begin trading in another spin-off from the Atomic Energy Authority, this time AEA Technology, after the offer closed seven times subscribed. The scope for a first-day killing may not be as large as in past privatisations given that the institutions are not being squeezed as severely as they have in the past to make way for the share-buying public. But the intermediaries – broking firms through which the public have had to apply for shares – will only get a fifth of the shares they applied for. That, together with an undemanding prospective earnings multiple of just over 14, should make the shares fly unless PDMF's Tony Dye suddenly gets what he has been praying for these past 18 months.

Amersham and AEA Technology are two businesses very similar in size. They both make a living from the commercial application of using skills and technologies honed

in the nuclear industry. They are both staffed largely by boffins whose appreciation of commercial life, at the outset of life as quoted companies at least, is limited. In fourteen years Amersham has transformed itself, proving what a handsome investment it was back in 1982. The shares have outperformed the Footsie by 200 per cent as sales and profits have increased seven-fold.

Over the same period, however, the Government's attitude to privatisation has hardly changed. True, the marketing is immeasurably more sophisticated and there is a little more effort to extract higher prices. You can argue that the efficiency gains in transferring state assets into the private sector have been enormous but you cannot argue that the taxpayer has been anything other than shortchanged when the assets have physically changed hands. If there is one difference with AEA Technology, it is that none of the directors stands to make a killing from share options. Still that shouldn't matter too much to its chief executive, Peter Watson. He is sitting on a £4m windfall from his other involvement in privatisation – the sale of Porterbrook.

IMF puts an end to British economy myth

Economics is rich in myths and one of the most enduring myths about the British economy in recent years is that the Gov-

ernment's borrowing requirement has slipped a bit but at least it is better than the Europeans can manage. We might not want to join the single currency, but, by golly, we could if we wanted to.

This happy notion, much encouraged by Kenneth Clarke, was firmly scotched by yesterday's new set of forecasts from the International Monetary Fund. The IMF gave the UK and pretty good clear bill of health during the summer and it hasn't changed its mind. But the one critical observation it makes is that a "correction" is needed in the public finances.

The Fund is less vulnerable than the European Commission to rigging its forecasts in order to make it look as though France and Germany will meet the 3 per cent public deficit to GDP ratio needed to qualify for EMU. Then again, Washington is much further away from those overenthusiastic Paris and Bonn officials.

So the IMF can be trusted when it predicts that the French and Germans will scrap under the wire in 1997. Its economists add the caveat that there is actually a risk of public spending cuts leading to slower growth that would derail the achievement of the deficit target.

Equally they mean what they say when they forecast that the UK will not satisfy this criterion. In fact the British budget position next year will be little better than the Spanish or the Portuguese. Only the Greeks and Italians will do much worse.

In the long run the UK enjoys a much better outlook for its public finances.

It has neither a dramatically ageing population nor has it an overgenerous pension system so does not share huge "invisible" pension liabilities with the continental governments.

However, that should not permit Mr Clarke to rest on his laurels in the meantime. He has not earned them yet.

NatWest securitisation is a brave attempt

In the United States the revenues from health care membership fees have been securitised and sold on the bond market. In Spain, the same has been done to nuclear power station subsidies.

In a more mundane way, the packaging and sale on the bond markets of mortgage interest and credit card payments and, even, the revenues from car hire purchase agreements, have become an everyday routine.

When it is carried out by banks, the usual motive is to get rid of part of the stock of loans by passing them on to securities market investors.

This frees space on the balance sheet to make new loans to bank customers.

NatWest's £3.2bn securitisation sounds the same as all the other wheezes, but in fact the bank is making a brave first attempt at opening up a new part of the market that

has not been attempted even in the US, the real home of securitisation.

Since the European market started in earnest in the mid-1980s, around £40bn of securitisation issues have been announced, but in the US, \$100bn was sold last year alone.

It has been possible for years to sell loans individually, in the so called secondary debt market. The differences is that NatWest is putting together a large number of corporate loans, and selling them in packaged form.

There are two reasons why nobody else has done it. Banks have been concerned that they will offend their customers, or encourage them to go straight to the securities market to raise cash themselves.

The margins on loans to large companies are also low, so most banks have scratched their heads and wondered whether it is worth going to the trouble of reselling them.

In the US, investors are prepared to spread their risks by buying a wide range of securitisation issues with different credit ratings. They of course have no currency risks, since it is a dollar market.

In Europe, investors tend to spread their risks in different currencies, but they demand the highest triple-A rated bonds in each.

So to get this issue away, NatWest has to get both the price and the ratings exactly right. It will not be easy.

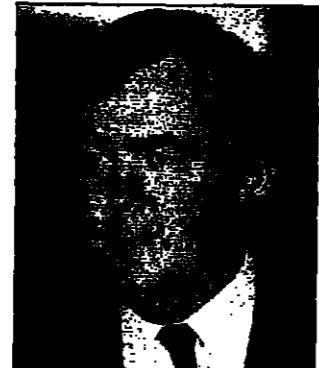
NatWest puts £3bn of loans on market

JILL TREANOR
and PETER RODGERS

Bankers said yesterday that there would be a rush to securitise corporate loans by selling them on the bond market if a pioneering NatWest deal proves attractive to investors.

NatWest confirmed yesterday it was selling £3.2bn (£3.2bn) of corporate loans by repackaging them as securities, which would be offered to bond market investors.

Barclays was widely tipped in the bond markets as the next to make the move. Alan Brown, head of risk at Barclays, confirmed that the bank had studied the idea. He said: "I wouldn't rule it out but we're not in any active stages of



Bond pioneer: NatWest chief executive Derek Wanless

launching it. We've looked at the techniques. It's purely what price."

Barclays had no immediate

need to sell its loans in this way, he made clear.

But Adrian Laycock, managing director in London of Fitch Investor Services, the US credit rating agency which specialises in securitisation issues, said: "If this goes well, you can see the floodgates opening in the UK and Europe."

The deal, which will release approximately £250m of capital, will be sold to investors from the end of next month and NatWest Markets, the investment banking arm of the bank, intends to start a series of roadshows in the days ahead to line up buyers for the new securities.

Many banks have been held back from securitising corporate loans by fears of a bad reaction from customers, but NatWest

said that its new plan would make no difference to customers and their identity would not be passed on to buyers of the new securities.

The securities give investors an entitlement to the cash flow from the loans, but there is no direct relationship with the borrower. NatWest will remain the lender to the companies.

The operation is being carried out through a special purpose company, Rose Funding Group, which will take loans of up to five years' maturity made by NatWest to 300 companies and convert them into floating rate paper (FRNs) and commercial paper (CP).

Aby Cator, managing director of European primary markets at NatWest, said the 300 loans

were a "representative sample of NatWest's lending portfolio to large corporate customers".

Rose will issue the paper in different tranches with different ratings, ranging from high investment grade to no rating at all. These ratings are not based on the creditworthiness of the borrowers but are simply a reflection of the amount of additional security provided by NatWest for each type of bond. The special purpose company will be provided with additional guarantees and capital to increase the creditworthiness of the paper it issues.

It took NatWest Markets just over a year to produce the idea, which was prompted by a desire to increase the return on its corporate loans, where

profit margins have shrunk to rock bottom levels because of tough competition.

Most loans to large companies are made as loss leaders, in the hope of selling fee paying services to the same customers. Unprofitable lending to large companies is a problem shared by most banks.

NatWest hopes that if Rose is successful in selling the securitised debt it will be used to carry out the same operation for other banks.

NatWest said it had no immediate plans for the approximately £250m of capital which will be released through the deal, although it was prepared to consider another share buy-back on top of the £450m it bought back earlier this year.

IN BRIEF

• Crédit Lyonnais is to receive Fr3.9bn (£487m) in emergency aid from the French government. Finance Minister Jean Arthuis confirmed yesterday. The figure had already been put forward by the European Commission, which said earlier today it approved the emergency plan. Mr Arthuis said the sum corresponded to the cost to Crédit Lyonnais in 1995 and 1996 of a loan it made to cover the costs of moving doubtful assets into a separate structure as part of a 1995 rescue plan. Mr Arthuis also said that the government is preparing a new recovery plan to come into effect quickly "so that this institution can be made competitive" with a view to privatisation "as soon as possible".

• Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries said sales growth is strong and capital investment on the existing estate and new pubs and sites has continued. Margins continue to be under pressure in the wholesale business, but are slightly higher in the second half than in the first six months. Retail margins improved in the second half but operation costs are higher than last year, reflecting investment in higher service standards, the company said. The company said trading over the summer months has been strong, with turnover in the year to date up 7.4 per cent. This compares with growth of 6.1 per cent for continuing businesses in the first 26 weeks of the financial year ended 29 September 1996. Based on management accounts for the first 47 weeks of the year, the company said beer and cider volumes overall are up 1.7 per cent, the same as in the first half, despite comparison in the second half with the "exceptional" summer of 1995.

• Hanson said shareholders approved "overwhelmingly" the demerger of Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco at the extraordinary general meeting today. The demergers leave only the spin-off of Hanson's Peabody Coal to Eastern Group energy division next January to complete the four-way break-up of the underperforming conglomerate.

• AT&T said it has agreed to sell its Skynet Satellite Services unit to the US technology company Loral Space & Communications for \$712.5m (£456m) in cash. AT&T spokesman Bob Aquilina said the sale of Skynet, a satellite operator that specialises in entertainment and educational programme distribution, is part of a change in strategy at the group, which yesterday issued a warning on earnings. "AT&T's strategy is to take advantage of the opportunities opened up by the new telecommunications regulation by focusing on our core businesses," Mr Aquilina said. Loral said it expects Skynet's purchase, which will hinge on Federal Communications Commission and Federal Trade Commission approval, to enhance its pre-tax earnings in 1998 and contribute about \$30m to pre-tax profits that year.

• Brake Bros, the catering food distributors, said it was ready to take advantage of growth opportunities, aided by the strength of the balance sheet. The group unveiled pre-tax profits up from £1.6m to £12.4m in the first half to June and is raising the interim dividend by 7.4 per cent to 2.9p. Sales jumped from £21.4m to £29.6m. The company said its Larderfresh business is moving towards profitability as sales continue to grow. Meanwhile, the acquisition of Vermeis was "another significant move" in the development of the business in France.

• Scottish Television said it had extended the date on which its bid for Caledonian Publishing must become unconditional in all respects to 18 October. Scottish said both the Office of Fair Trading and the Independent Television Commission had indicated that they will have concluded their inquiries by that date.

• Peptide Therapeutics, the biotechnology group, has won a patent for its bacteriophage display technology from the European Patent Office. The patent covers the display of multiple copies of peptides on the surface of bacterial viruses, known as bacteriophages. The technology is expected to provide considerable revenue through collaboration and licensing agreements, the company said.

• Helical Bar, the property group, said it was well placed to outperform the sector through its development programme of strategically placed office schemes and out-of-town retail and leisure parks. The aim over the next year would be to build an increasing flow of development profits from a small equity exposure and increase cash resources by degearing its investment portfolio, the company said. Pre-tax profits just edged ahead from £4.25m to £4.36m in the six months to July, despite a 6.3 per cent rise in turnover to £45.7m. The half-year dividend rises from 2.9p to 3.15p.

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MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

market report / shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3935.7 +25.2

FT-SE 250

4403.1 +14.9

FT-SE 350

1963.9 +11.3

SEAO VOLUME

691.7m shares,

35,208 bargains

Gifts Index

93.28 +0.10

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

800

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0

Kwik Save

Source: Datastream

Kwik Save may have been left on the shelf too long

Shares of Kwik Save, the nation's largest food discounter, collapsed 25p to 341.5p, their lowest since 1988.

Paul Smiddy, the retail analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing, did the damage. With the stock market already uneasy about the chain's prospects, his view that Kwik Save could be forced to reposition itself as a neighbourhood stores operation touched a raw nerve.

Such a development would prompt an upheaval. Many stores would have to be closed, decimating profits for the year just ended.

Difficult trading has encouraged Mr Smiddy to cut his forecast for the year ended last month to £31m, down £5m. But he frets about exceptional costs from any round of closures. If Kwik Save does bite the bullet he reckons it could cost £65m. For this year he is looking for £74m.

It is all a far cry from Kwik

Save's halcyon days when the shares nudged 850p and profits topped £135m.

Then the market was tantalised by bid stories. Would one of the Continental groups which have arrived in this country strike or would Dairy Farm, the Hong Kong group with nearly 30 per cent of the capital, decide to bid for full ownership?

Nowadays the market would no doubt be prepared to accept an offer at say 400p, with open arms. After its dismal record the company is friendless with many of its institutional shareholders hanging on hoping, without too much conviction, trading will improve.

Kwik Save's operations are caught between the growing power of the supermarkets, with their budget ranges, and the increasing strength of the Continental invaders.

For a long while the possi-



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter
of the year

bility Dairy Farm would look upon Kwik Save as its exit from Hong Kong buoyed the shares. But Dairy Farm has pointedly refused to keep the pressure on the group and would appear to be content to soldier on under the Chinese yoke.

The rest of the market enjoyed a swift upturn as fears of higher interest rates receded following the US decision to leave rates unchanged.

The FT-SE 100 index rose 25.2 points to 3,935.7 with P&O, after its reverse on Monday following fears of Brussels interference in its container ship merger with Nedlloyd, the Dutch group, leading the way. Stockbroker Panmure

Gordon, encouraged by the Dutch link, hoisted a 670p year-end target price on the shares. The price rose 18p to 595p.

Panmure Gordon also took a shine to British Aerospace, up 13.5p to 1,051p, and Royal Bank of Scotland, where a projection of a 520p target lifted the shares 12.5p to 484p. Great Universal Stores enjoyed ABN Amro House Government support, gaining 10.5p to 635.5p. The securities house is encouraged by the arrival of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale as chairman and point to a sum of the parts valuation of 770p.

Imperial Chemical Industries was ruffled by a profit warning from a US chemical group, falling 8p to 820.5p.

Vodafone, off 3p at 219p, was the subject of heavy trading with Barclays de Zoete Wedd said to have undertaken a 19 million institutional deal at 215p, realising a 3p a share profit.

Granada, after its presentation and more expressions of interest in its trophy hotels, fell a further 12p to 858.5p.

Insurances remained active with Legal & General pushing ahead a further 9p to 794p on hopes of corporate action, BT fell 5p to 362.5p on reports it planned to mop up the Celmer stake owned by Securicor, up 5.5p to 270p.

Manson fell 4p to 152.25p, a 12-month low. New York grey market trading in its Millennium Chemical hiv-e off made a poor start.

Chiroscience, with talk of a Glaxo Wellcome bid, rose 13p to 370.5p. Senior Engineering,

TAKING STOCK

■ Weeks, an environmental and engineering consultant, made a lively debut, countering stories the AIM market has run out of steam. Placed at 5p by stockbroker Ellis & Partners the shares, in often busy trading, ended at 7p.

The arrival of John Towers, ex-Rover Group, as chief executive, pushed Concentric, the engineer, 27.5p higher to 197p.

Courtyard Leisure, a London wine bar business which has failed to sparkle since Roderick Sutherland, an ex-stockbroker, and Richard Capper acquired nearly 30 per cent, put on 1.25p to 13.25p. Messrs Sutherland and Capper run the Drum and Monkey bar/bistro chain. They intend to change the company's name to Pemberton Group, move its shares to AIM and, it is thought, eventually pump the Drum and Monkey operation into the business.

■ St David's Investment Trust, a split-capital fund managed by ex-Slater Walker man Brian Bank's Guildhall Investment Management, is thinking of a restructuring and extended life. The trust is due to die in two years. A new company is likely to be formed to bid for St David's three classes of share. The trust has performed well since it was created.

Share Price Data									
Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights x Ex-dividends x AIM Stock Source: Party Paid pm N/F Paid Shares + AIM Stock Source: FT Information									
The Independent Index									
The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Sesap. Simply dial 0801 222 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports, dial 0801 223 0000 followed by one of the two digit codes below.									
FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation issues 36									
UK Stock Market Report 01 Bulletin Report 05 Wear Shares 40									
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40									
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 4									
Anytime with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 223 332. Call cost 35p per minute (cheapest rate), and 45p at all other times. Cell charges include VAT									
Market leaders: Top 20 volumes									
Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
45000000 BT	22000000 British Energy	62000000 Prudential	50000000	45000000 Scottish Power	56000000 Reliance	40000000	45000000 Telewest	54000000	45000000
22000000 Shell	32000000 BTI	70000000 Vodafone	45000000	32000000 BP	70000000 GEC Alsthom	40000000	32000000 GEC Marconi	70000000	32000000
32000000 Shell	32000000 BTI	70000000 GEC Alsthom	45000000	32000000 BP	70000000 GEC Marconi	40000000	32000000 GEC Plessey	70000000	32000000
32000000 BTI	32000000 BP	70000000 GEC Marconi	40000000	32000000 GEC Plessey	70000000 GEC Alsthom	45000000	32000000 GEC	70000000	32000000
32000000 BTI	32000000 BP	70000000 GEC Alsthom	45000000	32000000 GEC	70000000 GEC Marconi	40000000	32000000 GEC Plessey	70000000	32000000
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High Summer's festival hinges on wind and rain

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Several undergraduates at Bristol University last week may have been questioning if they had spent too much time in the union bar. Neither was it a rag week prank when a thoroughbred horse was spotted galloping on a treadmill, with a tube down its neck, near the main Langford precinct.

The beast was High Summer, the promising if breathless filly trained by Roger Charlton, who was at the university's equine and sports medicine centre to have a wind problem analysed.

When she is under severe pressure, High Summer's pantings can be heard from several counties away, but, following tests, scientists and connections at Beckhampton now seem happy to let the daughter of Nureyev take her chance in the Tote Festival Handicap at Ascot's Festival on Saturday.

Given the entries in her medical log book, it will astonish some that High Summer is down to as low as 3-1 for one

of the calendar's most competitive handicaps. On the credit side, however, the chestnut goes into battle off a mark 20lb lower than she will be asked to carry in future handicaps. Not that she will ever run in one again. "I have nothing to lose in running her as she is unlikely to go for another handicap," Charlton said yesterday. "She has got a huge amount of tal-

then you don't get the petrol. If some horses have an asthmatic problem like this, it can affect their thinking. If she starts thinking about her breathing, she could ruin her race before she has even started. You can't blame horses with a psychological problem like that or in desperate ones that stop when things start going wrong."

Little seemed to be troubling High Summer at Doncaster last time, though, when she finished second in a Listed race to My Branch. On that form she should win this weekend even if it allowed a single breath. It may be instructive that Charlton no longer thinks of the filly's physical defect as a barrier to success on Saturday. He is more concerned that the mount of Tim Sprake may be inconvenienced by the ground.

"We've had to live with her wind problem for a long time and tying her tongue down doesn't cure the problem, it just alleviates it. The problem with this type of thing is that if you don't get oxygen to the engine

problems. Connections are never quite sure in which country they would like her to win. It now seems the four-year-old will miss the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and try instead to add Britain to the list of France, Germany, Canada, the United States and Ireland as destinations where she has been successful. Newmarket is the latest course to receive a peg on the world map at John Oxx's Curragh yard in Ireland.

A spokeswoman for the stable said yesterday: "Timarida's target will be the Champion Stakes with John Murtagh. It has been decided that her pedigree is not suitable for tackling the Arc."

Timarida's defection lessens the prospect of the Arc leaving home territory still further following the withdrawal on Tuesday of Paul Cole's Riyadhan. Her owner, the Agha Khan, who won the event with Akiyda in 1982, is not totally without representation, however. He still took off to 6 October with great anticipation as Darazari, the Prix Niel runner-up, is among the market leaders.

"We're dealing with a filly who ideally wants an easy seven furlongs, so we don't want the ground too soft," he said. "I wouldn't think twice about taking her out at three o'clock on Saturday if the conditions weren't right. The overriding interest is her wellbeing."

Timarida is another filly with

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Bold Oriental
(Goodwood 2.30)
NB: Private Song
(Chester 4.20)

and I had her entered in Classics for that very reason. If the handicapper is right, she has an outstanding chance of winning a valuable prize, but I don't want people whooshing in thinking that this is money for old rope."

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RUGBY UNION: Rowell finally gets his preparations under way but maintains mystery over his choice of leader

England's captain kept secret

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Jack Rowell has decided who the next England captain is to be in succession to Will Carling, but neither the player nor the Rugby Football Union has been informed.

The England coach, who revealed that he and the rest of his management team had decided the captaincy issue a week ago, explained yet another bizarre turn of events in the crazy world of rugby union by saying: "We have selected a captain and as soon as the conflict between English Professional Rugby Union Clubs and the RFU is resolved I will name him."

"Until then only the England management know the player's identity," Rowell added. "I have not told the player and nor indeed with the president, John Richardson, himself. I feel it would be invidious to appoint this man at the moment. I feel he may possibly get caught up in some crossfire and that would not do English rugby any good. I would not like a future captain to be caught up in it. I just hope the differences between Epruc and the RFU can be resolved as quickly as possible for the good of the game."

Rowell's heartfelt desire may well come true following publication of a leaked letter from the RFU secretary, Tony Hallatt, to the Epruc chairman, Donald Kerr, that Twickenham is proposing a series of payments to the clubs. These would include 10 per cent of all gate revenue from international matches at Twickenham plus an annual sum of around £500,000 as well as a one-off payment of £50,000 to help in the cost of setting up Epruc administratively.

Hallatt sent the letter with the full knowledge of the RFU committee and such a concession by Twickenham, provided Epruc are satisfied, should en-

sure a speedy conclusion to a wrangle that has dragged on since the winter and has unfortunately embroiled the England players. They reluctantly boycotted the first of Rowell's squad sessions while the RFU were forced to cancel the second two weeks ago to avoid a confrontation with the players.

So it was no surprise yesterday to hear Rowell in upbeat mood. He said: "Today was very enjoyable. A very uplifting and refreshing day, including the attitude of the players. We are just relieved to be together."

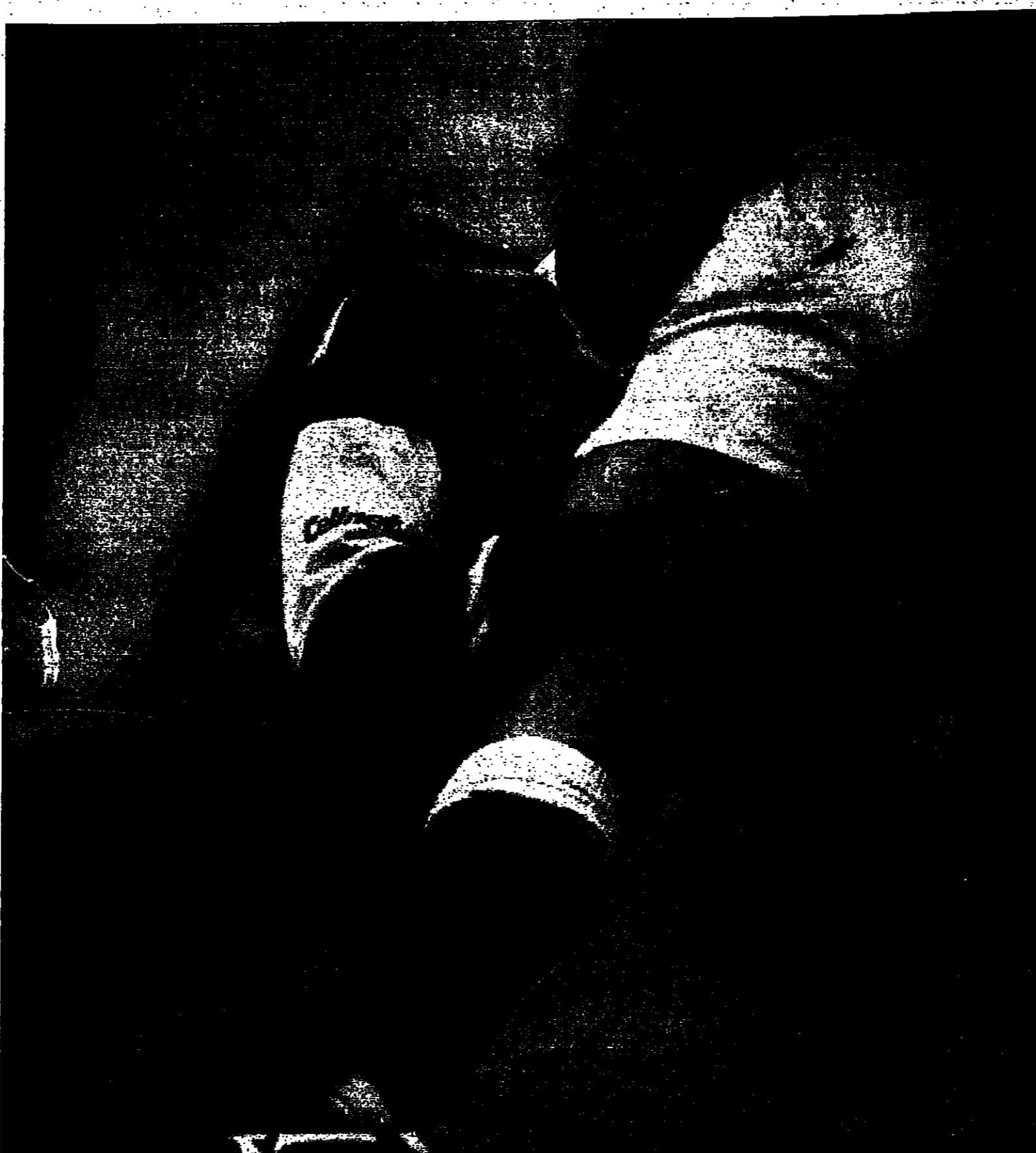
One of the chief reasons for Rowell's happiness was that all 45 players turned up, even the half dozen or so who could not take part because of niggling injuries. These included Carling, who aggravated the Achilles tendon injury he suffered in his final appearance as England captain against Ireland last spring.

"It felt as though it might go at any time," said the Harlequins centre, "but it was great to be back with the squad."

Carling had been overlooked when the two previous squads were named as was Jeremy Guscott his England centre partner. Although Guscott began the 90-minute session, he was one of 15 players who were on the sidelines by the end of the workout. Since Bath have dropped him for the trip to West Hartlepool on Saturday in favour of the rugby league recruit Henry Paul, Guscott should have plenty of time to recover.

Rowell did express a certain amount of anxiety since England's first international against Italy is looming less than two months away on 23 November. Rowell said: "It has become a case of 'catch-up' on training. There is a lot of work to be done in a very short time."

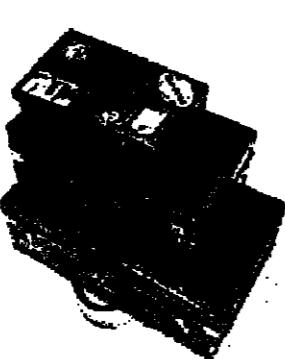
The England coach said he might draft in more players for his next squad get-together on 9 October to ensure he has enough bodies remaining.



Grappling iron: Jeremy Guscott gets to grips with tackling practice at England training yesterday

Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics

"besides the American Express Card else gets replaced"

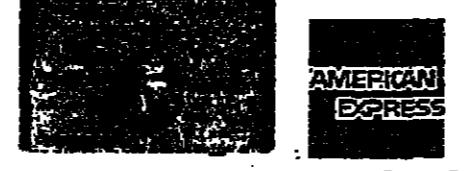


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I'm Alright Jacques

Wallabies name squad

The Australian Rugby Union yesterday named five uncapped players – all forwards – in their 30-man squad for their eight-week tour of Europe.

Australia arrive in Italy on 15 October at the start of a tour which also includes Tests against Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The ARU are still hoping a Test match against England will be added to the British leg so the Wallabies can play their first Grand Slam of matches against the four Home Unions since 1984, when they completed the clean sweep. New Zealand secured the first Grand Slam six years previously.

Australia first suggested 7 December as the date for the England Test, but the Four Home Unions' tour committee rejected that date because it clashed with a match against the Barbarians at Twickenham. The ARU last week suggested either 2 November or 16 November as alternative dates for an England Test, and said they would consider cancelling the Test match against Wales at Cardiff on 1 December if those dates were rejected.

Australia added the Test against Wales to their original tour schedule after a request from Welsh officials. "A Test against England at Twickenham is still a possibility and an announcement is expected in the next few days," a statement released by the ARU said.

The Wallabies' coach, Greg Smith, said the squad would be increased to 32 if the England Test went ahead, with the forwards Tim Gavin and Euan

McKenzie the players that would be added. Gavin and McKenzie were overlooked when selectors announced their squad, which includes the uncapped forwards Andrew Blades, Mark Connors, David Griffin, Touati Kefu and Brett Robinson. All five featured this year in the inaugural Super 12 tournament for provincial teams from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

The first Test of the tour is against Italy in Padova on 23 October, a match that will mark David Campese's 100th appearance in Australia's colours. In June, Campese increased his world record for tries scored in internationals to 14 by crossing in a one-off Test against Canada in Brisbane.

Orrell are prepared to go to court over their wrangle with Llanelli over the former All Black and Wigan star Franco Botica. Both clubs are claiming rights to the player, who originally agreed to play rugby league for Castleford in the summer Super League and union with Orrell for the next two winters.

Orrell have placed the matter in the hands of their solicitor, with a spokesman, Geoff Lightfoot, saying: "If they get away with this, it will create a precedent that will be very damaging to the game as a whole. It would mean that any contract is not worth the paper it is written on."

Llanelli agreed a £75,000 transfer fee with Castleford for the 33-year-old former Wigan back and paraded him in front of their supporters before their

Newbridge all change

The five-man Newbridge coaching staff yesterday resigned en bloc in the wake of the club's poor start to the Welsh club's season, and have conceded 197 points in their last three league matches.

The former Australian prop forward Tony Daly will make his debut for Saracens in Saturday's Courage League game at London Irish. Daly, who scored Australia's winning try against England in the 1991 World Cup final at Twickenham, has been capped 41 times by his country and has recently been playing for Queensland.

Saracens are still without Daly's fellow countryman Michael Lynagh, whose recovery from a shoulder injury is now set to keep him out until after the early-season break.

McAteer asks for patient approach

Football

RUPERT METCALF

After a night when Aston Villa were unimaginative ambassadors for English football, and Newcastle United failed to impress even though they made progress, Liverpool have the chance tonight to show how to deal with part-time players from Scandinavia.

The Finnish side, MyPa-47, arrive at Anfield to take on the daunting task of trying to overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first leg of this Cup-Winners' Cup first-round tie in Antalya last night.

The Middlesbrough fans will no doubt expect a feast of goals, but the Liverpool midfielder, Jason McAteer, warns against excessive expectations.

"There are no easy games in this competition. No team is a pushover any more," McAteer said. "We have to try and get an early goal. That might just put them down in the dumps."

Patrik Berger, the Czech international playmaker, seems certain to retain his place against the Finns after scoring four goals in the space of a week. The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has a fully fit 18-man squad to choose from. "We have to be sensible; for this is a tough game and our attitude has got to be right," Evans said. "But we have the bonus of the away goal, so we don't have to go chasing the game."

The MyPa-47 coach, Harry Kampman, knows his team face an uphill task. "I believe Liverpool could be as good as Ajax," he said. "They have good, fast players and are well disciplined and well organised."

Meanwhile, the Aston Villa manager, Brian Little, was yesterday attempting to pick up the pieces today after his side slid out of the UEFA Cup in Sweden on Tuesday. Villa drew 0-0 at Helsingborgs but went out on the away-goals rule after a 1-1 draw in Birmingham.

"The shame is that we are not going to get an opportunity this season to learn from this, and a lot of people will be critical of us after this," Little said. "But, in football and life in general, you need a few hard days to teach you to enjoy the good days. Everyone was down afterwards and we will have spent a few hours wallowing in our disappointment. That teaches you something."

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, described it as "the worse night I've experienced in terms of Europe since coming to the club 28 years ago." However, he insisted that Little will not suffer the same fate as Ron Atkinson, who was removed by Ellis from the Villa Park manager's job soon after a UEFA Cup defeat to Trabzonspor two years ago. "We have the best manager that I can remember in Brian – and I have had seven previous ones," Ellis said.

Unlike Villa, Newcastle had made home advantage pay in the first leg with a 4-0 win over Halmstad so, despite a 2-1 defeat in Sweden, they reached the second round of the UEFA Cup. "Our attitude was disappointing," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "We didn't do ourselves any favours and we got what we deserved."



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ALL OVER

28 24 SPORT

KEN JONES on the land of lost content of great athletes

DAVID LLEWELLYN on the secret England rugby union captain

Page 21

Page 22

UEFA CUP: Borussia Mönchengladbach progress to second round despite impressive fightback from Gunners



Ian Wright of Arsenal (left) tries to escape the attentions of Borussia Mönchengladbach's Stefan Effenberg during the English side's UEFA Cup defeat in Cologne last night.

Photograph: Allsport

Arsenal denied by Juskowiak

DERRICK WHYTE

Borussia Mönchengladbach 3
Arsenal 2
Borussia Mönchengladbach
win 6-4 on aggregate

Stefan Effenberg and Andrzej Juskowiak stopped Arsenal's comeback handwagons in its tracks in Cologne last night.

But for a magic half-hour in the second half, the Gunners, 3-2 down going into the second leg of their first-round UEFA Cup tie, looked as if they might pull off another revival.

Tony Adams returned to the centre of the Arsenal defence for his first start since two knee

operations and showed all his familiar authority until being substituted after Mönchengladbach's second goal.

However, it had taken a splendid save by the England goalkeeper, David Seaman, to prevent Juskowiak giving Mönchengladbach the lead 10 minutes before he actually did so.

Seaman's outstretched leg kept out the shot from Jorgen Petersen's pass, but he had no chance when Effenberg delivered a ball in behind the flat-footed Andy Linighan for Juskowiak.

It was Wright's 15th goal in 17 European ties and his eighth this season. It gave Arsenal the motivation they needed to look for an unlikely victory.

Unlikely, became possible when, just four minutes into the second half, an impressive array of passes finished with Merson pumping home a cracking 25-yard blast to bring the aggregate scores level.

Up to then, Arsenal had shown only half-glimpses of their striking quality. John Hartson had a shot well saved by Uwe Kamps after Ian Wright

did superbly well to provide a low cross. Wright had mis-kicked when promisedly placed from Hartson's pass just a few minutes earlier, but the striker made no mistake three minutes from the break after Hartson headed on Paul Merson's free-kick for a close-range strike.

Arsenal had no option now but to go for the third away goal they needed to win on aggregate and, perhaps inevitably, they were caught when Effenberg

delivered a ball in behind the flat-footed Andy Linighan for Juskowiak.

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The goal was built with passes flowing through Linighan, Steve Bould, Patrick Vieira, Wright, Hartson and finally Merson, but in the end it was not enough to unhinge the Germans.

Arsenal had no option now but to go for the third away goal they needed to win on aggregate and, perhaps inevitably, they were caught when Effenberg

delivered a ball in behind the flat-footed Andy Linighan for Juskowiak.

But Arsenal's reprieve was only temporary. Three minutes later, Effenberg was picked out perfectly by substitute

Christian Hochstätter, and his shot left Seaman stranded.

Arsenal could still have taken a third goal at the other end after Adams was replaced by Ray Parlour, but the substitute's low, raking cross from the right somehow eluded Hartson five yards from the far post. Arsenal also appealed for a penalty when Vieira went tumbling over Hochstätter's challenge. The German was booked, but a free-kick given just outside the box.

With seconds left, Effenberg went for the kill, sending Martin Schneider racing away down the left and pulling the ball back for Juskowiak to complete a double that warns England of his impending arrival at Wem-

bley for the World Cup qualifier next month.

Arsenal really lost this tie in the home leg at Highbury two weeks ago, and their new manager, Arsene Wenger, may have to work on their traditional strength in defence rather than their attack, which has been bursting with goals this season.

"Today we saw just how important Stefan Effenberg is for us," Bernd Krauss, the Mönchengladbach coach, said. "Arsenal never gave up and when we went 2-1 behind, I thought it was going to be very tight."

"It was hard going," Effenberg said. "Arsenal played much better than they did in England but if you take both ties to-

gether, I think we deserve to go through."

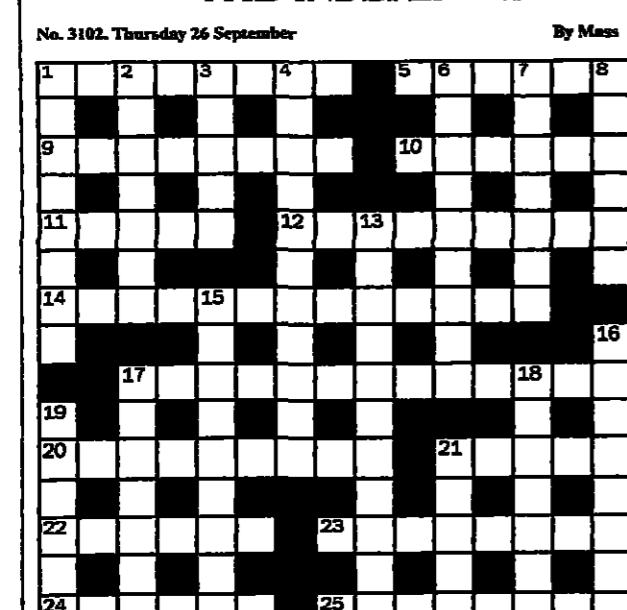
Borussia Mönchengladbach: Kamps, Arntzen, Neun, Juskowiak, Effenberg, Schröder, Nelson (Mehrfeld, 74), Pätzsch, Lubicsic, Förmier (Stüdler, 1-1), Petersen (Hochstätter, 63). Substitutes not used: Kastenmayer, Körber (69).

Arsenal: Seaman; Keown, Adams (Parker, 64), Bould, Winterburn, Platt, Vieira, Merson, Wright, Hartson. Substitutes not used: Lopez, Nieto (Sp).

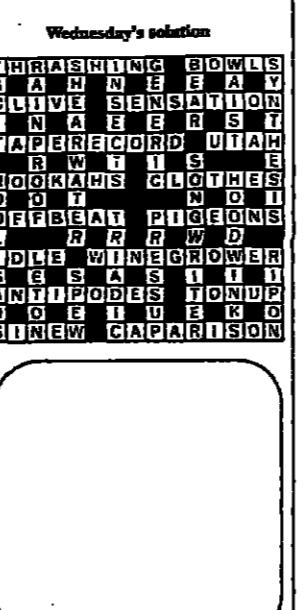
Referee: A Lopez (Neto) (Sp).

Results, page 27

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Bird near tug on lake (5-3)
 - Cast for fish (retaining record in retrospect) (6)
 - Jail? One figure getting time is rueful (8)
 - Little lady, free and showy (6)
 - Stout gets you high? (5)
 - Senseless holding a degree in patois (9)
 - Like a couple of goodies? (4-9)
 - Moving back Queen, I got reverses into play (13)
 - Padding around a cell? (9)
 - Bird near tug on lake (5-3)
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 - Like a couple of goodies? (4-9)
 - Moving back Queen, I got reverses into play (13)
 - Padding around a cell? (9)
 - Fires with sound of instrument (5)
 - Midget's kicked around in unprofessional play (6)
 - Animal stopping short without oxygen (8)
 - Bear, not a ram (6)
 - Newfangled barrel containing nothing of oak, etc. (8)
 - Language of borders in NE Spain (8)
 - Prevailing, Grant reduced Lee at war (7)
 - Staple clapped tab to make secure (5)
 - A goal, of course! (7-4)
 - Hot? Loom fan's working in phases (4-5)
 - Greek character charges for copies (7)
 - Gather leader's absorbed its writer? (6)
 - Rendering's his job, and working with gloss? (11)
 - Scoret score with figure - crushing English total, we hear? (9)
 - Right note in disciplinary individual (8)
 - Point of drill caught in recess (7)
 - Show preference for bank (7)
 - Swell badly flooding part of boat (6)
 - Burst of applause from five in short Exhibition (5)



Ferguson on sidelines after knee operation

Duncan Ferguson is facing up to six weeks on the sidelines after surgery on a knee injury.

The Scotland striker's absence is a serious blow for his

Eveton manager, Joe Royle,

who is attempting to pull his side

away from the foot of the Premiership table. Ferguson's injury

is also bad news for the Scotland

coach, Craig Brown, as the 24-

year-old striker could also miss

three World Cup qualifiers.

Ferguson is now ruled out of

the games in Latvia and Estonia

on 5 and 9 October, and

could be struggling to make the

home match with Sweden on 10 November.

Ferguson played outstanding

football in the first two games of the Premiership, against

Newcastle on the opening day

and against Manchester United

four days later when he netted

twice.

However, he has been strug-

gling for a few weeks with the

knee and on Tuesday went into

hospital for exploratory surgery.

A cartilage operation followed.

Among the Premiership

games he will miss is the Mer-

seyside derby on 20 October at

Anfield. Ferguson would have

missed the next couple of

matches though, after being

sent off against Blackburn

Rovers last Saturday.

Royle might now be forced

into looking for a replacement

as Everton attempt to end a run of eight games without a win when they play Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday. Wimbledon's strikers Dean Holdsworth, rated at £4m, is understood to be the top target.

Royle is desperately seeking

a victory on Saturday to try and

appease the fans after the Coca-

Cola Cup defeat by Second

Division York on Tuesday night.

But he insisted: "This is no time

to panic. We do need some new

faces and we are constantly

asking about players who I

know would improve us.

But the players I want are not

available at the moment. I am

not going to give false hope

of making a signing today or

tomorrow. It is a question of

waiting. The players are very

low. They are frustrated and

know they are letting themselves

and the supporters down at the

moment.

But I am confident in the

players that we have here and

that things will come round. We

have had two seasons of im-

mensely progress and that does

not suddenly turn into a situ-

ation of panic. We need everyone

to stand up and be counted but

at the moment one or two are

going missing."

Royle added: "The game

against York should have been

out of sight at Goodison Park.

It should have been academic

in France.

but it wasn't. Overall we got a hiding. I was very disappointed. Certainly going out of the cup at this stage wasn't in the script as far as I was concerned."

Glenn Hoddle is set to reap the benefit of England's Euro 96 heroes, when England meet Poland in a World Cup qualifier next month.

Wembley is on the way to becoming a 76,000 sell-out for the 9 October game, with more than half the tickets already snapped up by fans wanting to see Hoddle's first game at the twin towers since he was installed as Terry Venables' coaching successor.

"We haven't seen interest like this for a very long time," Wembley spokesman said.

Wembley expect another rush for tickets today when Hoddle names his squad for a meeting with opponents who have stood between England and World Cup success on many occasions down the years.

The stadium spokesman added: "There is always an increase in demand for tickets after squads are announced, so we would advise people to book now to avoid disappointment."

Hoddle's men kicked off their Group Two campaign with a 3-0 win in Moldova earlier this month as they look to book their place in the 1998 finals in France.

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